



**P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture
68th Annual Meeting
January 30, 2009
New London Community Centre
New London, P.E.I.**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President John Colwill at 9:43 am. President Colwill extended a warm welcome to members, employees, members of the legislative assembly, corporate sponsors, trade show exhibitors and other guests. Approximately one hundred and ten (120) people were in attendance.

Meeting Agenda:

President Colwill presented the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was approved as circulated on a motion by Alvin Keenan, seconded by Nick MacCardle.

Motion Carried

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting:

President Colwill called upon Ms. Karen Mutchison to present the minutes. Ms. Mutchison provided an overview of the minutes. A motion was moved by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Kevin MacIsaac to adopt the minutes as circulated, corrected and presented. Correction: Page 1 nominating committee report for Kings County should read Mr. Alvin Keenan rather than Mr. Ray Keenan.

Motion Carried

Nominations Committee Report:

President Colwill called upon Mr. Eddy Dykerman to present the nominations committee report. Mr. Dykerman explained the nomination process and presented the committee nominations for the 2009/2010 year of operation:

President - Mr. Ernie Mutch

Vice-president - Ms. Bertha Campbell

2nd Vice-president – Mr. Kent MacDonald

Executive Member at large – Mr. Ryan Weeks

County Directors:

Prince County - Ms. Mary Robinson and Mr. Ray Arsenault

Queens County - Mr. Sterling MacRae and Mr. Abe Buttimer

Kings County - Mr. Blair MacIsaac and Mr. Alvin Keenan

Past President - Mr. John Colwill

During the meeting as required, Mr. Dykerman presented the above nomination committee report a total of three (3) times and called for nominations from the floor. After the third presentation of the report and there being no nominations presented from the floor, a motion by Mr. Eddy Dykerman, seconded by Ryan Weeks to accept the nominations committee report.

Motion Carried

Audited Financial Statements:

President Colwill introduced Mr. Gerry Lanigan from the auditing firm of BFM to present the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2008. Mr.

Lanigan stated that the Federation had a good year financially and was pleased to report that the statements in the auditors' opinion presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federation as of November 30, 2008. During his presentation, Mr. Lanigan commented on any significant variations in revenue and expenditures and responded to questions/comments from the floor. The audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2008 were accepted as circulated and presented on a motion by Mr. David Mol, seconded by Mr. Boyd Rose.

Motion Carried

Financial Budget 2009/2010:

President Colwill called upon Mr. Mike Nabuurs, Executive Director, to present the financial budget. Mr. Nabuurs presented in detail the projected 2009 revenues and expenditures and provided a comparison to the 2008 actual results. Mr. Nabuurs noted a significant proposed increase in staffing expenditures to assist in enhancing services to members and other organizations. An operating deficit of four thousand two hundred (\$4,200.00) is being projected. The financial budget as circulated and presented was adopted on a motion by Mr. Morley Wood, seconded by Mr. Ivan Johnson.

Motion Carried

President's Report and Staff/Program Updates:

President's Message:

President Colwill made note of this report contained in the annual meeting booklet and asked members to read it at their leisure. President Colwill talked about the commitment of the PEIFA Board of Directors. This Board consists of twenty (20) individuals representing all sectors of agriculture and all areas of our province. Meetings are held almost monthly and always consist of an opportunity for individual commodity updates. PEIFA provides quarterly newsletters to its membership as a means of informing all members of the major issues being addressed. President Colwill spoke on our active membership in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and the importance of having P.E.I. represented at this important table. One example of action would be the industry round table discussions chaired by Minister Ritz and the Chair of CFA. President Colwill expressed his appreciation to Executive Director Mike Nabuurs and his capable team for their ongoing commitment, vision and professionalism. A job well done by all.

Advance Payment Program:

President Colwill called upon Mr. Andrew Wood to present this report. Mr. Wood presented data reflecting the commodities eligible for advances as well as a breakdown of the volumes advanced as of November 30, 2008. The amount advanced for the period of April 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008 was in excess of thirty (\$30.) million. Mr. Wood responded to questions/comments.

Farmer Counseling Program (FCP):

President Colwill called upon Mr. Frank MacAulay to present on FCP. Mr. MacAulay informed the meeting this program commenced in 2004 and was focused on assisting farm families and farm workers in managing the stress of families and their farm operations as a result of the financial crises. In 2007 the program was adjusted to include farm family members only. This program is a cost shared program between PEIFA and

the Department of Agriculture. Three (3) counselors provide this confidential service. Mr. MacAulay provided data as to utilization experience and responded to questions/comments.

Farm Health and Safety Programs:

President Colwill called upon Mr. Tim Seeber to present this report. Mr. Seeber informed the meeting of upcoming training events in the areas of First Aid and Tractor Safety. In addition, a pesticide application session will be scheduled in the near future. Mr. Seeber informed all attendees that he had a sign up list available and if anyone had questions or interest that he would be available throughout the day.

Environmental Farm Planning (EFP), Watershed Based Planning & Nitrate Update.

President Colwill called upon Ms. Karen Mutchison and Mr. John Jamieson to provide reports on these areas. Ms. Mutchison and Mr. Jamieson are both Certified Nutrient Managers. This presentation focused in how these programs were delivered and managed during the past year. The major change from prior years was that delivery focus on identified watersheds rather than individual farm operations. Five (5) watersheds across PEI have been identified and EFP is being managed with full participation and co-operation of the majority of farm operations in these watershed areas. Ms. Mutchison and Mr. Jamieson commented on the high support by farm operation on the three (3) year crop rotation plan as well as the respect for buffer zone requirements. Testing and ongoing monitoring is being conducted for nitrate levels at these watershed areas. Based on the ongoing collection of data there is a direct correlation between residential growth and increased nitrate levels. This approach to EFP planning through watershed management should prove beneficial to the agriculture industry into the future.

President Colwill thanked all above participants for providing valuable information to the meeting. In addition President Colwill expressed the sincere appreciation of the Association to Mr. Ian MacIsaac, who very capably managed PEIFA while Mike was away; Ms. Marilyn Affleck who managed farm safety programs for a number of years and who retired in 2008; Hon. Neil LeClair and Hon. George Webster and their department for their support during the past year

Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Report:

President Colwill called upon Mr. Eddy Dykerman to present this report. Mr. Dykerman is the Atlantic representative on CFA board. Mr. Dykerman informed the meeting that CFA holds quarterly meetings and the past year was a very busy one. During 2008 CFA acquired its own office facilities in Ottawa. As well CFA hired a new Chief Executive Officer and experienced changes to the chair position of the Board. Mr. Robert Godfrey from PEI is now employed with CFA. Mr. Dykerman introduced Mr. Laurent Pellerin, 1st vice-president of CFA to the meeting.

Mr. Pellerin brought greetings to the meeting from CFA and complimented PEIFA on its many initiatives to support and assist agriculture in our Province. Mr. Pellerin stated that the ability of PEI to move to a one desk Advance Payment delivery model was a major

accomplishment and one that his home province of Quebec has not been able to achieve to date.

Mr. Pellerin spoke on the need for all sectors of agriculture to work together to develop strategies for the long term sustainability of agriculture and to be in a position to influence government policy in various areas. During the past year CFA met with a number of candidates for the federal election to impress upon them the importance of agriculture and the need for government to implement effective financial assistance and policies that will create a positive impact. The current announcements by Minister Ritz to extend the repayment term for livestock advances under the severe economic hardship are a positive step. However, the \$500 million agriflex money is now over five (5) years compared to four (4) years announced in 2008. These funds represent only \$190 million in new funding. There is a need for government to do more, farmers deserve more. The decrease of \$0.02 per liter tax on diesel fuel that was announced in 2008 by the Prime Minister was not included in the recent budget. No framework has been established yet for the Agriflex Program. Agriculture needs federal programs that meet the needs of each province. The good news is that grain prices were favorable in 2008. World reserves for grains are low and this should have a positive impact on prices into the future. Grain production will be challenged to meet the global demand. Need for a clear vision for the country for beef and pork production. Number of countries produce beef and pork cheaper than Canada. Labor costs in Canada are impacting on our ability to be competitive. Significant political changes in United States and India may have a profound effect on agriculture. Currently there are one hundred sixty (160) countries in the World Trade Organization. Low probability that an agreement by all countries involved in WTO negotiations will be reached in 2009. Major challenge for agriculture is the number of sellers versus the number of buyers. There is a need for collective marketing of products. Farmers are portrayed to the general public as receiving high subsidies. The reality is Canada is the reverse as Canadian farmers receive far less government assistance than many other countries they are competing with. Farmers deserve the same treatment as other major industries within Canada.

President Colwill thanked Mr. Pellerin for his informative comments and for his attendance at our annual meeting.

President Colwill introduced and welcomed a number of guests who were in attendance:

Hon. George Webster – Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Ronnie MacKinley – Minister of Transportation and Public Works
Hon. Carolyn Bertram – Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs
Hon. Richard Brown – Minister of Energy, Forestry and Environment
Mr. Jim Bagnall – MLA Montague
Mr. Robert Godfrey – CFA
Ms. Robin Moore – Wayne Easter MP office
Mr. Rory Francis – Co-chair Commission on Agriculture
Mr. Ed Tyrchniewicz – Co-chair Commission on Agriculture
Mr. Brian Douglas – Deputy Minister of Agriculture
Mr. Jim Lavers – Commercial Account Manager Bank of Nova Scotia

Mr. Elwin Wyand – Chair National Farmers Union
Dr. Bob Morrison – ACOA
Staff of Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada
Staff of the Department of Agriculture

PEIFA Past Chairs: Ms. Mette Ching; Mr. Kenny MacLellan; Mr. Eddy Dykerman, and
Mr. John J. MacDonald

Chairs of Member Commodity Boards:

Mr. David Mol – Island Grains and Protein Council
Mr. Anthony Nabuurs – P.E.I. Hog Commodity Board
Mr. Boyd Rose – P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board
Ms. Mariah Smith – President Young Farmers Association

President Colwill expressed appreciation to corporate sponsors of PEIFA:

Kensington Agriculture Services
Mark's Work Warehouse
PEI Agro Mart
Vesseys Seeds
Island Lime

President Colwill expressed appreciation to the sponsors of this annual meeting:

Farm Credit Corporation
Malpeque Bay and Stella Maris Credit Unions
The Co-opertors
Bank of Nova Scotia
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
PEI Mutual

President Colwill expressed appreciation to all trade show participants.

President Colwill invited Mr. John Hutchison from FCC to do a short presentation. Mr. Hutchison presented a short video on the regional conference hosted by FCC. The 2009 conference will be held in Moncton, NB on March 5th. All are welcome. For additional information and registration visit WWW.FCC.ca/forum

Executive Director Nabuurs invited Mr. Morley Woods to lead us in the meal blessing. To the delight of everyone's pallet a buffet style meal was provided filled with fresh Island farm products. DELICIOUS!!

President Colwill invited our luncheon speaker Hon. George Webster to address the meeting. Minister Webster spoke on the Commission Report and his believe that agriculture in commencing a "NEW ERA". Minister Webster stated that he was well

aware of the crises facing many Island farmers and informed the meeting that he was fully committed to working with all sectors to overcome these crises within the fiscal capabilities of government. Hon. Webster stated the Government of PEI was fully aware of the issues and that he would exercise all his influence to ensure government supports this large economic engine within our Province.

Following lunch and Hon. Webster's address, President Colwill thanked Minister Webster for his comments and called the meeting back to order.

Growing the Island Way:

President Colwill invited Mr. Rory Francis, co-chair of the Commission on Agriculture to address the meeting. Mr. Francis provided a detailed review of the Commission's report "Growing the Island Way" that was released on January 29th. Mr. Francis spoke on the need for change to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The report contains fourteen (14) recommendations for action. A twelve (12) person Board of Directors has been appointed to lead this process of action and an annual budget of \$2.0 to \$2.5 million will be required. PEIFA current president, Mr. John Colwill has been appointed to this Board.

President Colwill informed the meeting that questions/comments on this and other reports will be addressed during the panel discussion.

Unity Model Next Steps:

President Colwill thanked Mr. Francis and invited our Executive Director, Mr. Mike Nabuurs to address the meeting. Mr. Nabuurs provided an overview of the Unity Model presentation that was presented to the industry last fall. Mr. Nabuurs identified the critical elements required to move the industry forward. The industry must become more proactive in determining our future. Mr. Nabuurs spoke of the smaller steps that are being implemented to position the industry for down the road. Steps such as: enhanced support to smaller organizations; PEIFA board training and a review of board composition and development of a fair compensation policy for PEIFA directors, and farm operations cost saving conferences.

Mr. Nabuurs spoke of the need to address the issue of effective communication to Island farmers and the potential of all organizations working together with a comprehensive communication strategy.

Panel Discussions:

President Colwill introduced panel members for the panel discussion. Panel members are: Mr. Laurent Pellerin, Hon. George Webster, Mr. Rory Francis and Mr. Mike Nabuurs. Each panel member was provided three (3) minutes to present their respective topic.

Mr. Francis expanded on his previous presentation and spoke of the new market potential.

Mr. Pellerin spoke on the structure that farmers in Quebec utilize to govern their agricultural industry. In addition to the central table decision and action group there are twenty-six (26) commodity groups. It is important to set goals and objectives like the one

in the commission report to increase agriculture volume to one (1) billion dollars. Central organizations require strong leadership and commitment.

Minister Webster spoke on the fact that the significant financial pressure on some producers may impact on their future direction. He stated that Government is fully committed to do what they can within their fiscal capabilities to ensure that all sectors survive. Minister Webster stated that only sixty-two (62%) of producers participated in Production Insurance in 2008. Minister Webster encouraged all producers to fully participate in the risk management programs. Minister Webster stated that he believes the next decade will provide a new lease on life in agriculture and provide fair returns and profits to producers.

Question/Comment: The current regulations provide for fines up to \$10,000.00 for contravention of the Environmental Protection Act. I.e. cattle drinking in a stream. Penalties excessive compared to violations to other acts.

Response: Minister Webster stated that Government is reviewing these regulations and recommendations will be submitted to cabinet in the very near future.

Mr. Nabuurs spoke on the need for change. He stated that there was “no silver bullet” fix to our problems. PEIFA recommendations to the Provincial Government in the areas of taxation and working capital will help in the short term. He stated that we cannot afford to let this commission report sit on a shelf, we must action it.

Question: PEI has a number of smaller farms. Can we compete in the future market?

Response: Mr. Pellerin: Quebec has 43,000 farms with 30,000 farmers. 10,000 farms produce 80% of the production. 20,000 farms are under \$100,000.00 in sales. 95% of Quebec farmers are participants in UFA. Working together is their strength, not the size of their farms.

Question/Comment: Crop Insurance works well until appeal rules become a deterrent to reasonable settlement. Policies should be written to encourage growers to participate. Need for policy changes.

Response: Minister Webster: All costs for administration are borne by the P.E.I. Government. The premiums are shared three (3) ways, ie producer, Federal Government, and Provincial Government. Over the past decade 80% of clients received more back than they paid in premiums. Detailed review will be completed prior to the end of April to ensure that coverage is closer to cost of production. Process will be simplified as much as possible.

Comment: Potential of new crops. However, currently a shortage for livestock feed. Feed to livestock, potatoes to fries are the best way to create and maintain jobs. Need to ensure we have a good balance of new to current needs.

Response: Mr. Francis suggests there is a need for enhanced communications in all areas of livestock industry i.e. cow/calf; producer/processor, etc. Swine producers must find potential for this industry.

Mr. Pellerin commented that grain prices are the not problem, producers were previously underpaid for their grain crops. Grain market is not an open market. However, price is established by the U.S. market exchange. Livestock is an industry in crises all across Canada.

Question/Comment: Crop insurance system seems strained. Problems experienced by producers due to claim dates, etc should be reviewed.

Question/Comment: Over the years Canada has implemented strong regulations to ensure safety of Canadian made meat products. However, at the same time Canada allows meats from other countries with little or no regulations to be imported into our food supply. This imbalance must be corrected. We are forcing processors out of our country due to regulations.

Response: Minister Webster: some regulations are driven by consumers. Minister Webster stated that he supports the fifteen (15) meter buffer zone. However, he feels there is misinformation in the farming community in regard to the use of these zones. Producers can use them for the turning of tractors, sprayers and harvesters. 2009 is an orientation year and will have no fines, etc. The main objective of these zones are to decrease the potential of siltation and are not meant to be intrusive.

Mr. Nabuurs: PEIFA would work with the departments of agriculture and environment to provide clarification to the farming community.

President thanked all panel participants for their valued contribution as well thanked all members for their active participation.

Resolutions:

President Colwill called upon Ms. Bertha Campbell, chair of the resolutions committee, to present the resolutions.

Ms. Campbell stated there were fifteen (15) resolutions being submitted to this meeting.

Resolution # 1: Continuation of Policy :

Whereas Document 1 lists all resolutions from the previous Annual General Meeting of the PEI Federation of Agriculture (2008) and

Whereas Document 1 also outlines all actions taken to date toward resolution of 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 attention and activity as outlined in Document 1, to the attention of those bodies or interests concerned to ensure the issues are addressed.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the action report on 2008 Annual Meeting Resolutions. A motion moved by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Terrence MacDonald, that Resolution # 1 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 2: *Federal Agriculture Unity Model:*

Whereas the PEI Federation of Agriculture has undertaken over the past two (2) years to investigate the current status of farm organizations on PEI and

Whereas the PEI FA has also undertaken a close examination of the Union Producteurs Agricoles (UPA) and other farm organizations in Quebec and

Whereas the PEIFA, as a result of this work, has developed a working model for a more unified and efficient approach to supporting PEI's farms and farm families called the Unity Model,

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA proceed with further development and implementation of the Unity Model for PEI Agriculture.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Eddy Dykerman, that Resolution # 2 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 3: *Support for Commission on the Future of Agriculture on Prince Edward Island:*

Whereas there has existed over the past number of years significant financial hardships on many Island farms and

Whereas two major agriculture sectors on PEI are in collapse and

Whereas it is the mandate of the PEIFA to establish policy and determine necessary action to stabilize the industry,

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA support the Report on the Future of Agriculture and Agri-food on PEI and its recommendation.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Alvin Keenan, that resolution # 3 be approved as presented.

Motion Unanimously

Carried

Comments: To assist the agriculture industry the harmonized sales tax system should be adopted by the Province.

Minister Webster stated that the Province would require transitional funding from Ottawa in the \$50. to \$70. million range. During the first round of discussions with Ottawa the offer was far less than this amount.

Resolution # 4: *Regional Cooperation:*

Whereas the financial challenges facing the agriculture sector in PEI are in many ways similar to the financial challenges facing the agriculture sector in the entire Atlantic region and

Whereas working together as a region may provide greater opportunity to develop solutions to improve the sustainability of the agriculture community in the Atlantic region and

Whereas work has already begun by the four Atlantic provincial farm organizations to develop strategies for long term solutions and

Whereas an Atlantic Red Meat Strategy has been initiated,

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA continue to work on strategies jointly with the other three Atlantic Provinces toward improving the profitability of farms in the Atlantic Region as a whole and

Therefore be it Further Resolved that the PEIFA continue to work in a regional capacity toward implementing the Atlantic Red Meat Strategy and

Therefore be it also Resolved that the four (4) Atlantic farm organizations lobby their respective provincial governments and other commodity organizations to work jointly on regional solutions and collaboratively with the agriculture sector in the region to invest jointly in agriculture on regional solutions.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Ryan Weeks, that Resolution # 4 be approved as presented.

Discussion on this resolution noted the following comments:

Comment: Due to the continual decrease in the hog production in the region the hog plant in Nova Scotia may not be able to survive in the long term. There is a need for Governments in the Atlantic region to work together on this issue.

The following amendment to the resolution was presented:

Therefore be it Further Resolved that the PEIFA continue to work in a regional capacity toward implementing Atlantic Red Meat strategy and *supporting the continuation of the Larsen Hog Processing Plant in Nova Scotia and*

This amendment was moved by Eddy Dykerman, seconded by Alvin Keenan

Motion Carried

To ensure clarity in this resolution the following amendment was proposed:

Therefore be it Also Resolved that the four Atlantic farm organizations lobby their provincial governments and other commodity organizations to *work co-operatively* and jointly together on regional solutions and collaboratively with the agriculture sector in the region to invest jointly in agriculture on regional solutions.

This amendment was moved by Ernie Mutch, seconded by Gordon Lank.

Motion Carried

Ms. Campbell called for the vote on the amended resolution.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 5: Alternative Energy:

Whereas over the past few years, farmers on PEI have undertaken several on farm energy generation projects and

Whereas these projects often generate sufficient energy for farm operations and in some cases surplus energy and

Whereas there currently exists no process for recognizing the surplus energy that is fed into the provincial electrical energy grid.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA lobby the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry to implement net metering and net billing for farms and businesses generating their own electrical energy to allow for the sale of surplus energy into the provincial electrical grid.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Sterling MacRae, that Resolution # 5 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 6: Environment:

Whereas there exists on PEI significant environmental regulations and legislation which directly impacts farmers and farming operations and

Whereas PEI farmers have undertaken many environmentally beneficial practices on their farms such as nutrient management and soil conservation and are stewards of the land and

Whereas PEI farmers recognize the benefits of environmental stewardship and

Whereas the PEIFA attempts to be supportive of environmental regulations and legislation that provides direct benefit to PEI's natural resources and

Whereas there exists some confusion regarding current provincial environmental regulation and legislation and

Whereas there also exists some confusion regarding the interpretation of the regulations and legislation by those acting in an enforcement capacity and

Whereas there has historically not been a cooperative working relationship between agriculture and enforcement officials with the PEI Department of Environment Energy & Forestry

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA work with the PEI Departments of Agriculture and Environment Energy & Forestry to ensure a working environment that is mutually cooperative and respectful and

Therefore be it Further Resolved that the PEIFA work with the PEI departments of Agriculture and Environment Energy & Forestry to also ensure that enforcement agents are properly trained and understand the nature and culture of farming and

Therefore be it Also Resolved that the PEIFA work with the PEI Departments of Agriculture and Environment Energy and Forestry to promote an open & transparent consultative process when introducing new regulation or legislation.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Ryan Weeks, that Resolution # 6 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 7: Crop Insurance Review:

Whereas the Crop Insurance Program on PEI has had an increase in participation in the program in recent years and

Whereas in the 2008 cropping year, significant crop losses were experienced by producers in all cropping sectors and

Whereas the demand on the Crop Insurance Program increased as a result and

Whereas due to the increase some inefficiencies and disparities in the program were observed.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA lobby government to achieve a consultative process which will allow industry sufficient input into the crop insurance program.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Alvin Keenan, that Resolution # 7 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 8: Enhanced Benefits Package for PEIFA Members – Buying Group:

Whereas the PEIFA represents 700 farms on PEI and

Whereas these farms purchase similar products in significant quantities and

Whereas there may be substantial benefits for members of the PEIFA to begin accessing group benefits and improving pricing under a group purchasing format and

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA establish a working group tasked solely with developing an enhanced benefits package for PEIFA members and investigating the potential of establishing a member buying group.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Kenny MacLellan, that Resolution # 8 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 9: Farm Registration Enforcement:

Whereas the PEIFA lobbied for a mechanism to provide stable funding for general farm organizations working for farms and farm families on PEI and

Whereas the process of Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act is not being enforced and there are farms not registering annually as required by law and

Whereas the registration provides consistent revenues to the farm organizations allowing quality service to industry.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA work with the PEI Department of Agriculture to ensure that the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act is enforced and that all farms are treated equitably and are required to register with one of the Province's general farm organizations or have their fuel tax number revoked.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Ernie Mutch, that Resolution # 9 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

Comments: Several members spoke in support of this resolution and commented that Government must deal with this issue.

Minister Webster advised the meeting that Government will take this issue under advisement.

Resolution # 10: Access to a Provincial Nominee Type Program for Agriculture:

Whereas the agriculture industry on PEI contributes significantly to the Province's economy and

Whereas the agriculture industry is undergoing a period of innovation, change and advancement and

Whereas these kinds of activities require significant capital investment in many businesses across the Province and

Whereas the PEI Nominee Program had provided significant capital investment in many Island businesses across the Province and

Whereas agriculture businesses have not been eligible to receive program support from the PEI Provincial Nominee Program.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA work with the Department of Innovation & Advanced Learning to include agriculture businesses as those eligible to receive funding under a PEI Provincial Nominee type Program.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Kent MacDonald, that Resolution # 10 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 11: Government Loan Access:

Whereas agriculture has been and continues to be, the single largest contributor to the economy of PEI and

Whereas agriculture forms the basis on which other important industries, namely; food processing, equipment sales, equipment manufacturing, equipment repair, fuel distributors, transportation businesses, crop and livestock input providers and many others, use to build financially viable businesses, which in turn add significantly to the economy of PEI and

Whereas markets for agriculture products are continually changing as consumer demands for both quality and quantity changes and

Whereas PEI farmers have indeed been leaders in finding new markets while adopting and improving both production and marketing methods that not only benefit their financial bottom line but also the environment from which they make their living and

Whereas to meet the needs and requirements of new markets and products there is an ongoing need to invest financial capital in new and improved infrastructure namely facilities and equipment and

Whereas there are Federal and Provincial programs which will assist in providing some of this much needed capital in the form of either a grant or low interest loan and

Whereas these Federal and Provincial programs use job creation as one of the main criteria for determining the level of assistance and

Whereas improving infrastructure to maintain valuable jobs is equally important as it is to develop new job opportunities.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA actively lobby the Federal and Provincial departments involved, namely ACOA and the PEI Department of Innovation & Advanced Learning to make job maintenance equal to job creation as a criteria for determining levels of assistance.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Robert MacDonald, that Resolution # 11 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 12: Revenue Canada Claw Backs:

Whereas farms are facing difficult financial business decisions and
Whereas these farms are making every effort to repay outstanding debt to the best of their ability and
Whereas in some cases these debts are not completely repayable and are being written off by financial institutions and Crown Corporations such as Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) to prevent farmers from having to claim bankruptcy and
Whereas these “write offs” are then considered as income for that year by the Canada revenue Agency resulting in substantial tax bills forcing farmers into bankruptcy anyway.
Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA and the CFA lobby the appropriate levels of government to ensure that government policy and/or tax law is changed to prevent these types of tax claw backs after the fact and
Therefore be it Further Resolved that existing scenarios under these circumstances be corrected retroactively for a period of not less than five (5) years.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Terrance MacDonald, that Resolution # 12 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 13: Relief for Crop Losses in 2008 Cropping Year:

Whereas the 2008 cropping year delivered record breaking rainfall in areas across the Province and
Whereas the abundant rainfall led to substantial crop losses across all sectors – grains, oilseeds, protein crops, vegetables and potatoes and
Whereas federal disaster relief had been delivered only in small part to the potato sector and
Whereas the current level of disaster relief is insufficient to cover the significant losses in the potato sector and
Whereas the current disaster relief program offers no coverage to other affected crops.
Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA lobby both Federal and Provincial levels of government to deliver disaster relief to all affected crops in the province at a level that is adequate to cover the crop losses.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by George MacEwen, that Resolution # 13 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 14: Municipal Boundaries:

Whereas the PEI Federation of Municipalities has undertaken a review of municipal boundaries and
Whereas the review process could potentially lead to recommendations to expand existing municipal boundaries and

Whereas the boundary expansions could potentially lead to farm land and farmsteads being part of a formal municipality and

Whereas this may have significant impact on farming activities and expansion.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA ask the appropriate authorities to impose a moratorium on the review into modifications to municipal boundaries until such time as the PEIFA has sufficient input into this process as is necessary to address the needs of PEI's agriculture community.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by Brian Morrison, that Resolution # 14 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution # 15: Electricity Rate Increases:

Whereas PEI currently has the highest electricity rates in Canada and

Whereas the high rates increase input costs on farms and

Whereas this serves to place agricultural producers on PEI at a competitive disadvantage.

Therefore be it Resolved that the PEIFA request IRAC to introduce a moratorium on electricity rate increases of any kind.

A motion by Bertha Campbell, seconded by David Mol, that Resolution # 15 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

President thanked Ms. Campbell for a job well done.

President Colwill expressed his appreciation to Hon. George Webster for attending this meeting and, just as important, for him to stay and participate in the entire meeting. This was the first meeting that Mr. Colwill recalls that the Minister stayed for the entire meeting.

President Colwill congratulated the incoming president Mr. Ernie Mutch and wished everyone well in the coming year. Mr. Mutch thanked President Colwill for his leadership, dedication and wisdom in matters of the PEIFA.

President Colwill thanked everyone for attending and there being no further business asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion by David Mol the meeting be adjourned at 4:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Colwill
President

Gerard Dougan
Recording Secretary