

Notes from COO Liaison Committee meeting 2008/03/17

Stephan O'Neil (COO), Arnold Taylor (OFC), Valeriya Staykova (COO), Sherry Casey (Loblaws), Rochelle Eisen (COABC), Matt Holmes (OTA), Catherine Carroll (OPAM), Nicole Boudreau (OFC), Julie Belzile (OFC), Betsy Hui (CHFA), Keith Mussar (IT Canada), Wally Hamm (Pro Cert), Stephanie Wells (OFC), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Gunta Vitins (SunOpta), John Hollinger (MAFRI), Clark Phillips (OFC)

1. Valeriya has finished all AB assessments – will have a meeting with ABs to discuss roles and responsibilities and decide the next steps in Toronto in April – then the COO plans to post a list of recognised ABs and CBs
2. COO trip to Brussels cancelled because of weather in Ottawa – no new date
3. Stephan is developing a training module for inspectors – relevant portions will be available to the organic sector
4. Stream of Commerce discussion – the committee is trying to find a way to allow a smooth transition into the Canada Organic Regime, though it is hard to meet everyone's needs - we will continue working on this after the next CGSB meeting
5. Canada standard – the last meeting coming up at the end of March – Julie is working with CGSB staff and the Chair of the Technical committee to ensure that all the important amendments are able to be passed at this meeting (or perhaps soon thereafter). The Technical Committee needs to work quickly and co-operatively to be able to get everything to ballot
6. The Organic Value Chain Roundtable has decided the present Canada Organic logo is not acceptable because it leads to the impression that products displaying the logo are products of Canada when they may not be. The Roundtable viewed a study from AAFC regarding consumer perceptions of 'product of Canada'. Not surprisingly, consumers perceive that any product that has a maple leaf or the word Canada on its label is a product of Canada. The OVCRT has sent a letter to the President of the CFIA suggesting the logo should be removed from the Regulation and they would be happy to work with the CFIA to design a new one.
7. Next meeting April 7 at 1 pm Eastern 866-646-2080 passcode: 2217165