

Organic Federation of Canada/Fédération biologique du Canada
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The Organic Federation of Canada/Fédération biologique du Canada has been established in response to the federal government's request to be able to communicate with one organic sector on regulatory issues,. It also addresses the organic sector's commitment to a voice and responsibility in the ongoing development of organic standards and regulations. The OFC/FBC is registered as a not-for-profit organization to advance federal policy dialogue from the perspective of the organic sector. The coordinator, Nicole Boudreau, has opened an office in Montreal.

The group's mandate is: "To represent the Canadian organic industry while working with provincial, territorial, and federal governments as partners on national organic regulatory issues."

The federation will coordinate the development of:

- National organic standards
- Industry comments on regulations and policies/quality management systems
- Strategic planning and organizational development activities for provincial and territorial representation at the national level
- Developing supportive federal policies and programs, particularly with respect to development of a positive trade environment for organic sector products.

Members, from West to East:

From	Role	Name
YK	Director	Claire Desmarais
YK govt	Ex-officio	Matthew Ball
BC	Dir-Treas	Paddy Doherty, farmer
BC govt	Ex-officio	Robert Prins
AB	Director	Ron Hamilton, farmer/processor
AB govt	Ex-officio	Keri Sharpe
SK	Dir-Chair	Arnold Taylor, farmer/certifier
SK govt	Ex-officio	Chantal Strumborg
MB	Dir-Sec	Janine Gibson, IOIA inspector-trainer/Organic Food Council MB/COG
MB govt	Ex-officio	Marc Boulanger
NW	Director	Evelyn Coleman
ON	Director	Jennifer Grant, retailer/Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)
ON OCO	Ex-officio	Kim Thorne
ON govt	Ex-officio	Hugh Martin
QC	Director	Julie Belzile, Filière biologique du Québec
QC	Ex-officio	
NB	Dir-	
NB govt	Ex-officio	Claude Berthéléme
NS	Director	Angela Patterson, farmer/certifier
NS govt	Ex-officio	Claire Hanlon Smith
PE	Director	Raymond Loo, farmer
PE govt	Ex-officio	Susan MacKinnon
NL	Director	Mark Wilson, farmer
NL govt	Ex-officio	Jane White
Maritimes	Ex-officio	Beth McMahan for ACORN
Trade	Dir-Pres	Stephanie Wells, Organic Trade Association
Trade	Guest	Sherry Casey, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors

The voting members are organic industry representatives from each province and territory, as well as one national trade association representative. The non-voting members are from the provincial and territorial ministries of agriculture. The government's Canada Organic Office expects to bring the regulation into force in December 2008.

YK

Claire Demarais was elected by the host organization Growers of Organic Foods Yukon (GOOFY), which is comprised of all certified organic operators in the territory

The Yukon government has provided funding to train a local organic inspector, to send Claire to OFC/FBC meetings and, in 2005, devoted the territory's 2005 agricultural conference to organic agriculture. Matthew Ball is the territory's ex-officio representative to OFC.

BC

The Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) hosts the OFC/FBC and its board appointed Paddy Doherty (farmer, IFOAM advocate) as the BC representative. The COABC board includes the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (BCMAL), the SPCA and the BC Food Systems Network.

BCMAL provides support for the assistance on development of the Organic Products Certification Regulations, an organic extension agent (\$100,000) and the Organic Sector Development Program (a \$1 million trust fund for organic projects).

Paddy chairs the Organic Value Chain Roundtable and leads the weekly calls with the Canada Organic Office. Robert Prins is the BCMAL ex-officio member to OFC/FBC.

AB

Alberta elected its representative by polling all certified operators they could reach in the province. Farmer/processor/trader Ron Hamilton became the Alberta representative in September 2007.

Alberta has hosted a tri-lateral conference on organic trade and supported a program to bring dairy producers into organic.

Keri Sharpe is the agriculture ministry's ex-officio rep to the OFC/FBC.

SK

The Saskatchewan Organic Directorate (SOD) acts as the province's OFC host organization, and the SOD board elected Arnold Taylor (farmer, Canadian Organic Growers president and CB staff) to the OFC. Arnold reports to the SOD directors who in turn report back to their producers associations.

Arnold submitted comments on the Quality Manual.

The provincial government supports SOD as the umbrella organization and has contributed almost \$800,000 for programs such as the Food Miles Campaign, market development and trade market analysis. Blaine Recksiedler is the SK agriculture ministry's representative to OFC/FBC.

MB

The Organic Food Council of Manitoba (OFCM) is the provincial OFC host. Janine Gibson is the Manitoba representative. She chairs the OFCM, a chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, as well as the Canadian Committee of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association and represents IOIA on the National Organic Standards Committee. Janine is the interim secretary of the OFC.

The Government of Manitoba has provided grants and program funding to both OPAM and OFCM to help promote the organic movement. Marc Boulanger was appointed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives to serve as its ex-officio representative.

NB

New Brunswick elected Tony Grant (processor) by polling the ACORN list of organic producers, processors and retailers in the province, as well as members of active certification bodies. Unfortunately Tony has had to resign so Beth McMahon is serving from ACORN. Claude Bertheleme is the Organic Extension Specialist for the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture. New Brunswick provides core operating funds to ACORN, as well as funding to the OACC. A New Brunswick Organic Agriculture Development Program has recently been launched, providing over \$100,000 to the sector for 2007/2008. Claude Berthélemé is the New Brunswick agriculture ministry's ex-officio member of OFC/FBC.

NF

The Newfoundland representative is farmer Mark Wilson. Jane White is the agriculture ministry's ex-officio member of OFC.

NS

Nova Scotia elected producer Angela Patterson by polling the ACORN list of organic producers, processors and retailers in the province. Angela is working with Anne Macey on Canada Organic Standard livestock issues.

In addition to providing support to ACORN and Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC), Nova Scotia promotes the organic sector through department services, including Marketing and Business Development where two full-time development officers, Claire Hanlon Smith and Jamey Coughlin, provide expertise and guidance to the organic sector. Technical extension is provided by Dr. Av Singh, the Organic and Rural Infrastructure Specialist through AgraPoint, which is funded in part by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA).

ON

The Ontario OFC/FBC host is the Organic Council of Ontario (OCO), incorporated in February 2006. OCO has nine directors and ex-officio government representatives from the province and the federal government. OCO elected retailer Jennifer Grant to the OFC, with OCO executive director Kim Thorne serving as alternative.

The provincial government has granted OCO \$200,000 to help develop the organic sector. Hugh Martin is the Ontario agriculture ministry's ex-officio member of OFC/FBC.

PE

Raymond Loo is the producer representative of the PEI Certified Organic Producers Co-operative. NEED overview of PEI's significant contributions to organic agriculture.

PEI currently funds ACORN, OACC, the PEI Certified Organic Producers Co-operative, and a full-time organic extension specialist, Susan MacKinnon. PEI has several funding programs in place to support the organic industry, including the Organic On-Farm Research Program (2001) and the Organic Certification Assistance Program, which covers 100% of certification fees. Last year, PEI announced the Organic Industry Development Program, which earmarks \$5 million over the next five years for organic development. In the 2007 budget, a further \$500,000 was added to this program.

QC

Julie Belzile is the representative from Québec's Filière biologique. The Filière was established in 1993 and is comprised of all the organic businesses in the province. In partnership with the Ministère d'agriculture, pêcheries et alimentaire Québec (MAPAQ), the Filière developed a strategic plan for developing the province's organic sector. Québec has had a regulated organic system in effect since 1997.

The OFC will invite Nicholas Turgeon of MAPAQ to be the province's ex-officio representative.

NWT

While not an official host organization for the OFC, the NWT the Territorial Farmers Association (TFA) provides information for people interested in organic farming. Evellyn Coleman is the TFA executive director and representative to the OFC/FBC.

National Trade Seat

Stephanie Wells, Organic Trade Association in Canada

Expert Committee Guests

Sherry Casey, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (pending approval)

Keith Mussar, I/E Canada, the association of importers and exporters (pending approval)