

PEACE RIVER ORGANIC PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1201 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Dawson Creek BC V1G 4J2

April 3, 2001

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund  
Box 6641  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4J1

Dear Council Members,

I thank you on behalf of the Peace River Organic Producers Association (PROPA) for supporting the Guelph/Atlanta proposal that enabled their participation in national and international export strategies. Please find attached a letter from PROPA President, Tim Ewert, copies of the expenses incurred, a copy of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) AGM agenda and strategic plans, the Atlanta Workshop agenda, a copy of the presentation I made to the certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) Annual General meeting, a copy of the ISO-65 Accreditation Guide I obtained at the Atlanta Workshop.

The actual total cost of proposal activities was \$2,358.90.  
PROPA is requesting 80% funding, \$1887.12.

This same proposal went to Sci Tech North as mentioned in the proposal. No support will be forth coming from Sci Tech North.

The purchased materials for the library are in the PROPA office in Dawson Creek BC MAFF. Organizing these materials along with other PROPA materials will be added to Dawson Creek BCMAFF library is in progress and I project that they will be available to the public by May 15, 2001. I have personally donated a copy of the *Soil Biology Primer* to the library; the co-author, Dr. Elaine Ingham, gave the *SOILFOODWEB* presentation in Guelph. The list of the recently purchased materials slated for the Dawson Creek MAFF library include:

*Organic Vegetable Production Management* (video)  
*Organic Soil Fertility, Crop Rotation & Planning for Profits* (audio)  
*Farmer Seed-saving & Plant Breeding* (audio)  
*Using Pastureland To Its Strength* (audio)  
*Organic Certification Explained* (audio)  
*SOILFOODWEB* (audio)  
*International Organic Farming Analysis & Report* (audio)  
*Farmer Academic Trade Collaborative Forum on Critical Issues* (audio)  
*Organic Field Crop Handbook* (book)  
*Organic Livestock Handbook* (book)  
*Soil Biology Primer* (donated book)

PROPA Directors have received copies of my report and notes of the Atlanta Workshop and a brief report was delivered to PROPA General Meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. PROPA Directors and the COABC Export Committee have also received a copy of the ISO-65 Accreditation Guide. The Atlanta Workshop report was presented to the members of the COABC during the Annual General Meeting on February 13, 14<sup>th</sup>, as well, copy was sent to the COABC Administrator via e-mail. As a result, BC MAFF's, JoAnn Sandhu (Market Development), is following up the suggestion made in my report to request accreditation by the USDA as a possible short term solution to the BC organic product export challenge. A copy of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) Strategic Plans discussion will be mailed to the PROPA Directors next week. Discussion regarding the Atlanta Workshop, the COG Plans, announcement of the additions to the BC MAFF library will be made during the upcoming PROPA Directors meeting slated for April 8<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to explain my itinerary since it was not a simple round trip. I flew from Grande Prairie to Hamilton. I paid my own way from Hamilton to Guelph by taxi. I flew from Toronto to Atlanta. I took the bus to visit family in North Carolina. I then purchased airfare from Raleigh, North Carolina to San Diego out of my own pocket, where I visited family rather than fly directly home.

I thank you for the opportunity to better serve the Organic Producers in the Peace Region, and the opportunity to partner with BC MAFF to institute a library on organic farming in the Dawson Creek BC MAFF office. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise at the PROPA office in BC MAFF in Dawson Creek at 250-784-2228 or my home at 780-351-2115 or E-mail: [orbuch@telusplanet.net](mailto:orbuch@telusplanet.net).

Yours truly,



Marina Sexty Buchan  
PROPA Certification Coordinator

PEACE RIVER ORGANIC PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1201 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Dawson Creek BC V1G 4J2

March 19, 2001

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund  
Box 6641  
Fort St. John BC V1J 4J1

Dear Council Members,

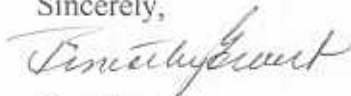
I would like to acknowledge your contribution towards our proposal to send Marina Buchan to the Canadian Organic Growers Strategic, Planning session, Annual General Meeting, the ISO-Guide 65 workshop in Atlanta Georgia, and the three-hour seminar and purchase of audio tapes from the Guelph Conference. It is important that PROPA and the COABC be kept informed of the national and international changes in the organic community and regulatory processes.

As mentioned in the proposal the EU, the USA and Quebec will require ISO-65 compliance or equivalency of all imported certified organic product within the next 6-18 months. Marina Buchan attended the two-day workshop designed to train organic certifiers in implementing appropriate changes to their programs to comply with ISO-65 regulations. She presented a written report at the COABC AGM regarding this workshop and an analysis of the options for changing COABC export program. She also participated in a panel discussion about these options. These options were also discussed at the last PROPA General Meeting held on March 17. Her written report was given to PROPA President, Tim Ewert.

Marina attended the COG Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning session. She also purchased Guelph audiotapes and one videotape of sessions from the Guelph Conference. These tapes are now available to the public by contacting Marina Buchan at the BCMAFF in Dawson Creek. These will soon be part of the library in the Dawson Creek office.

Thank you again for support of this project.

Sincerely,



Tim Ewert  
PROPA President

PEACE RIVER ORGANIC PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1201 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Dawson Creek BC V1G 4J2

March 30, 2001

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund  
Box 6641  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4J1

Dear Council Members,

Please find enclosed a letter from Tim Ewert, a copy of the minutes of the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) 2001 Annual General Meeting and copies of the receipts for the expenses incurred by the PROPA member attendees of the meeting. These pertain to the proposal of the Peace River Organic Producers Association members to attend the COABC Annual General Meeting in Abbotsford, March 13 and 14, 2001. The receipts for the actual expenses total \$1501.62. PROPA's proposal requested 80% support, which is \$1201.29.

There were some changes to the proposal. Initially the COABC requested that the Director and the Certification Chair attend the AGM. Later, the COABC requested that the regional certifiers also have their administrators present at the meeting. PROPA's administrator is Marina Buchan. She had previously made plans to visit with her family in California during February, which meant that she had to fly out of Los Angeles to Abbotsford return to attend the meeting, rather than flying out of Grande Prairie.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Marina Buchan  
PROPA Certification Coordinator

PEACE RIVER ORGANIC PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1201 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Dawson Creek BC V1G 4J2

March 19, 2001

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund  
Box 6641  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4J1

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Peace River Organic Producers Association (PROPA), I would like to thank you for your generous contribution, which allowed us to have representation at the Annual General Meeting of the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC). It is essential that as the organic sector of agriculture, here in the Peace Region grows, that we have a voice in determining standards and policies that affect us.

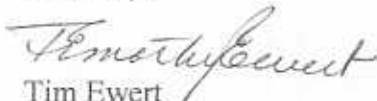
The COABC requested that PROPA send the PROPA Director to the COABC Board, the PROPA Certification Chair and the PROPA Administrator. In attendance from PROPA were Ted Buchan, Certification Co-Chair, Tim Ewert, Director, and Marina Buchan, the Administrator. This meeting was held on February 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> in Abbotsford.

There were many concerns of vital importance to production in the Peace River Area under discussion, i.e. livestock standards and allowable inputs in our production. The production and export of grain and oil seeds is extremely important to our area, and the Peace Region is the primary producer of these commodities in BC. There are new international standards regulating the export of all organically produced foods. It is essential that we attain compliance with ISO-Guide 65 standards, or the export of crops, which many of our producers depend on will be eliminated.

There were several government representatives at this meeting, including Jo Anne Sandhu and Brian Roberts from BCMAFF and Margaret Bancroft, senior market and trade officer of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Having producers and government officials together was very beneficial in deciding how to go about achieving compliance with ISO-65 trade guidelines.

Thank you again for helping facilitate our having a voice in these discussions.

Sincerely,



Tim Ewert  
PROPA President