



BULLETIN

Addendum to Administrative Levy Increase on 2023 Crop

We have received feedback regarding this bulletin and realize that better communication surrounding our circumstances should have been provided, including a proper explanation for why the BCVMC (Commission) chose to implement the increase at this time.

Producer costs are rising, and your concerns are appreciated. The increase to the levy rate is significant. We want to assure you that the Commission did not take this decision lightly and that it was made to ensure the continued viability of the Commission's operations.

As was mentioned in the Bulletin, the Commission has not increased levies since they were reduced in 2017. The Commission has operated in a deficit position for five (5) years since 2017 with the loss projected for this year putting us in a position where we would potentially run out of cash in early 2024. In fact, the decision to increase levies is a direct consequence of the decisions made in 2017 which returned reserve surplus to the growers. Unfortunately, due to the timing on the collection of greenhouse levies, it was necessary for the levy increase to be implemented at the start of June.

Under the current circumstances, the Commission felt like there was no choice but to proceed with a levy increase that would preserve our current reserve of six (6) months of expenses. There is no question that, while we reviewed aspects of the current budget at the AGM, the process would have benefitted from advanced notice of the situation and engaging in additional consultation with producers. We are committed to this going forward. We are also committed to putting processes and procedures in place to return to producers any surplus funds that exceed our minimum reserve requirements.

We are working on several positive initiatives that will benefit producers and needed to ensure that our financial situation did not become a distraction or a limitation to moving forward.

Please contact the Commission office if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter.