



Canada Agricultural
Review Tribunal
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0B7

Commission de révision
agricole du Canada

**Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal (CART)
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (AC)
Meeting Held on April 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. EDT via Teams**

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Emily Crocco, Chairperson of CART
Pierre Lampron, Chair of the Advisory Committee
Maria El-Hachem
Sherri-Lynn Foran
Frédéric Lapointe
Claudia Larocque
Melanie Nobre
Geneviève Parent

Observer

Ryan Wilkes

Regrets

Jorge Correa
Robin Horel
Moya McAlister
Russell Reitsema
Skyler Veazey

1 Welcome

Mr. Lampron welcomed all attendees.

2 New Items for Agenda

No new items were added to the agenda.

3 Review and approval of draft Minutes from January 23, 2024, meeting

The AC unanimously approved the draft minutes from the January 23, 2024, meeting.

4 Feedback on Draft Accommodations, Mental Health Supports, and Getting Help Documents

No feedback from committee members.

5 Chairperson's updates

Ms. Crocco reported that it has now been over a year since the AC has been created. She extended her thanks to members for their expertise and continued participation.

Access to Justice Project (A2J)

Ms. Crocco reported that CART hired Paul Aterman, previous President of the Social Security Tribunal, to help on the A2J Project. Ms. Crocco invited Mr. Aterman to review CART's results from the Department of Justice's "Access to Justice Index for Administrative Bodies" and to suggest how these findings should be prioritized.

Mr. Aterman provided the Tribunal some reasonable recommendations. These included training on active adjudication and on unconscious bias for the CART team. We are currently pursuing the training on active adjudication.

CART employees will take unconscious bias training that is offered for free by the Canada School of Public Service.

Ms. Crocco continued that Mr. Aterman suggested the Tribunal remove [Rule 8 \(4\)](#) of the *Rules of the Review Tribunal* which states "a party who requires interpretation services from language other than English or French must pay for the costs of these services." This rule was identified as being against accessibility measures. CART hopes to change the rule of the Tribunal within the next coming year, but in the meantime, the Tribunal will no longer enforce this rule. CART usually sees about 1-2 applicants per year that ask for the interpretation of a language other than English or French, therefore CART will assume these costs. CART's guide for self-represented people has already

been amended to reflect the change in this rule. Members and Registry staff will ensure that this information is appropriately passed on to applicants.

Potential Regulatory Changes

Ms. Crocco stated that she met with Minister MacAulay to inform him that she might have proposals for regulatory changes. Ms. Crocco informed the Minister that she wasn't in a position to make recommendations having not yet reached out to stakeholders.

Ms. Foran asked if CART had any plans in looking into regulatory amendments for the bifurcated process with the review of Minister's decisions.

Ms. Crocco responded that this was not something CART was going to look into, although it could be added as an agenda item if committee members would like to expand the discussion on this topic.

Ms. Foran replied that CBSA is looking at the bifurcated process from an efficiency perspective as well as an accessibility perspective. Applicants potentially have a second opportunity to go through the Minister first rather than choosing between the Tribunal or the Minister. Ms. Foran also highlighted that CBSA advisors are not lawyers.

Ms. Nobre asked for some clarification on the nature of CART's review following a Ministerial review.

Ms. Crocco replied that questions on substantive areas of law should be asked during hearings.

Ms. Crocco informed the committee that she is hoping to add one or two lawyers to the Advisory Committee. These lawyers would ideally be people who have represented applicants at our Tribunal.

E-Filing Portal

Mr. Lapointe was pleased to report that CART launched its e-filing portal on March 28th, 2024. CART has spent the last year developing the web portal with their IT group; this portal allows for the electronic filing and retrieval of documents. Mr. Lapointe added that the portal is at a soft launch (testing) phase allowing for only specific documents to be filed at this point. This will help to identify and resolve any technical issues that may arise. Following the completion of the soft launch phase, the portal will be expanded to the filing of all documents. Mr. Lapointe noted that there will always be the opportunity to file documents through e-mail. Mr. Lapointe reported that feedback has been positive, and things have been going well so far.

As a closing remark, Mr. Lapointe mentioned that the e-filing portal [link](#) is available on the CART website, along with detailed information about the portal.

Ms. Foran thanked CART for their impressive work on the portal and mentioned that there has also been positive feedback from CBSA.

6 Next Meeting dates

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

Registry to send out the invitations for the next AC meetings.
