



Canada Agricultural
Review Tribunal

Commission de révision
agricole du Canada

Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal (CART)
Advisory Committee (AC)
Held on September 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. EDT via Zoom

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Emily Crocco, Chairperson of CART
Jorge Correa
Myriam Bourdon (for Melanie Nobre)
Gillian Burnett
Marie Estabrooks (for Sherri-Lynn Foran)
Maria El-Hachem
Frédéric Lapointe
Claudia Larocque
Marie-Hélène Lavoie
Geneviève Parent
Russell Reitsema
Robert Scriven
Nicolas Paillat (for Skyler Veazey)

Regrets:

Chris Araujo
Jan Holmes
Pierre Lampron
Moya McAlister

1 **Welcome**

Ms. Crocco welcomed members to the meeting.

2 **New Items for Agenda**

No new items were added.

3 **Review and approval of Draft Minutes from January 21, 2025, meeting**

Minutes from the January 21, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

4 **Chairperson's Updates**

Admissibility Pilot Project

Ms. Crocco reported that this pilot project has ended.

Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Crocco informed the Advisory Committee (AC) that CART has started distributing the Client Satisfaction Survey to parties upon the completion of the hearing process.

CART Rules Updates

Ms. Crocco reported that a Sub-Committee met twice during the summer to review proposed changes to CART's rules. CART is currently reviewing the feedback it received from the Sub-Committee.

Ms. Crocco further noted that CART has started working with Treasury Board (TB) and the Department of Justice to finalize the rule revisions. TB has advised CART that a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement will be required, which CART is currently drafting. This entire process is expected to take from six to twelve months.

Caseload Increase

Ms. Crocco shared some statistics and highlighted that CART's caseload has increased significantly in the past year.

5 Annual Report

Ms. Crocco encouraged members to share historic Canadian agriculture photos for inclusion in next year's report.

Mr. Scriven congratulated CART on the quality of the Annual Report, noting that it is easy to read and effectively conveys its intended message.

6 Case Management Conference Calls (CMCCs) and Navigator Project

Ms. Crocco indicated that CART is considering implementing a pilot "Navigator" project, under which the information shared during a CMCC would instead be shared with a designated Navigator.

Ms. Crocco asked the AC for its perspective on the usefulness of CMCCs and the introduction of a Navigator project.

Mr. Scriven stated that CMCCs are valuable as they assist in narrowing issues and allow for matters to be clarified through discussion rather than solely in writing. He also stated that he supports the idea of a Navigator project, particularly as a resource for unrepresented applicants.

Ms. Lavoie agreed, noting that CMCCs are useful as they help to promote consistency between parties and clarify expectations prior to a hearing. Ms. Lavoie noted previous instances where CMCCs identified applicants requiring interpretation services. Ms. Lavoie suggested that the Navigator project could be piloted to compare its effectiveness with current methods. Ms. Lavoie indicated that she would consult her team and provide feedback to CART following internal discussions.

7 Request for Review Form Update

Ms. Crocco requested feedback on proposed changes to CART's Request for Review form.

Acknowledging the agency's interest in being informed of the case in advance, Mr. Scriven expressed the view that the reasons for a request should not be required on the form. As an example, Mr. Scriven noted that if an applicant states that they are not the individual named on the Notice of Violation (NOV), the agency may withdraw the NOV and reissue it correctly, which would be prejudicial to the applicant. While recognizing that there is some benefit in allowing applicants to state their reasons, he emphasized that this is not a mandatory requirement given that the respondent has the burden of proof.

Ms. Lavoie stated that the option for the applicant to state the reasons for their request helps CBSA to identify if a witness will be needed. Ms. Lavoie stated that her team would like to look at the other proposed options and provide comments to CART.

Ms. Bourdon agreed with Ms. Lavoie and stated that it is beneficial for CFIA to know the direction taken by the applicant; given that CFIA files are more complex it allows for efficiency and enables CFIA to put resources where they are needed.

Ms. Bourdon stated that emphasizing the agency's burden of proof might inadvertently disadvantage the applicant, as it may lead them to believe they have no obligation to provide evidence or submit documentation. She stressed the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance in this regard.

8 Roundtable

Mr. Correa asked whether it would be possible to determine if the number of review requests submitted to CART regarding animal welfare has increased.

Ms. Crocco responded that the Annual Report includes detailed figures and statistics for the past three fiscal years. She also noted that all CART decisions are publicly accessible and may be consulted for research purposes.

9 Next Meeting dates:

- Tuesday, January 27th, 2026
- Tuesday, March 24th, 2026
- Tuesday, May 26th, 2026