



Canada Agricultural  
Review Tribunal

Commission de révision  
agricole du Canada

## Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal (CART)

### Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (AC)

Meeting Held on January 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. EST via Zoom

## MINUTES

### Members in Attendance:

Emily Crocco, Chairperson of CART  
Chris Araujo  
Gillian Burnett  
Jorge Correa  
Maria El-Hachem  
Thomas Enns  
Frédéric Lapointe  
Claudia Larocque  
Marie-Hélène Lavoie  
Geneviève Parent  
Russell Reitsema  
Philippe Tremblay  
Robert Scriven  
Skyler Veazey

### Regrets

Melanie Nobre  
Jan Holmes  
Sherri-Lynn Foran  
Vincent Lamontagne

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## **1 Welcome**

Emily welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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## **2 New Items for Agenda**

No new items for the agenda were proposed.

The draft minutes from the September 23, 2025, meeting, which were previously circulated to the AC members, were unanimously approved.

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## **3 Updated Terms of Reference**

Ms. Crocco presented the revised Terms of Reference for the AC. The changes mainly reflect updates to the Committee membership and the transfer of AC Chair responsibilities to CART's Chair. The new approach is meant to better match how things currently work.

Members did not raise any concerns. The updated Terms of Reference were approved and will be finalized and posted on the Tribunal's website.

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## **4 Membership Update and Introductions**

Ms. Crocco thanked outgoing members Pierre Lampron and Moya McAlister for their contributions, as their terms ended at the close of last year.

She then welcomed two new members: Thomas Enns, a lawyer with the Saskatchewan Provincial Government and Associate General Counsel with the Water Security Agency—who is also an agricultural producer on a grain and produce farm—and Vincent Lamontagne, a Québec-based agricultural law practitioner.

After that, members and stakeholder representatives introduced themselves and briefly described their roles.

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## **5 Chairperson's Updates**

### ***Operational Updates***

Ms. Crocco shared that, based on feedback from the AC, CART has decided to continue using Case Management Conference Calls (CMCC).

Ms. Crocco also mentioned that the Request for Review Form has been updated with a few minor changes and that the full Guide to CART's Process has been sent to ATSSC editors for a plain-language review, and a revised version is expected in early February.

### ***CART Rules Updates***

Ms. Crocco explained that Department of Justice counsel are doing a full review of the proposed amendments to the Tribunal's Rules. Instead of focusing only on the specific changes that were suggested, they're taking a broader look at the Rules to improve clarity, organization, and alignment with current drafting practices.

She also told the AC that once this review is finished, the Tribunal will share the updated version with both the AC and the Rules Subcommittee for their feedback.

In addition, Ms. Crocco noted that work is continuing with Treasury Board on developing the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement. Timelines for this work are still being finalized.

### ***Onsite Training***

Ms. Crocco shared an update on CART's participation in an onsite training session with border services officials at the Ottawa Airport. This session provided useful insight into frontline enforcement work, including inspection procedures and the use of automated systems. A similar training session was held at the Montreal Airport in May 2025.

### ***Caseload Update***

Mr. Lapointe gave an overview of the Tribunal's caseload and performance for the current fiscal year. He noted that the number of new files, decisions issued, and hearings held are currently tracking at or above last year's levels, and year-end totals are expected to surpass those of the previous fiscal year. Decision outcomes also remain consistent, with roughly two-thirds of decisions upholding notices of violation or ministerial decisions.

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Ms. Crocco highlighted the substantial increase in workload over the past five years, noting that the Tribunal's annual intake of new files has nearly tripled during that time, while the number of appointed adjudicators has decreased. She stressed the importance of filling the current adjudicator vacancy and observed that additional capacity would be helpful if circumstances allow.

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## **6 Roundtable**

During the roundtable discussion, members talked about whether broader, system-level changes outside the Tribunal could help reduce the number of matters that proceed to review.

Ms. Crocco reminded members that the Tribunal's role is to serve as an independent and accessible appeal body, and that it has no opinion regarding whether more or less matters should be brought forward.

Members also discussed how CMCCs help with procedural efficiency. While these conferences are useful for clarifying issues and managing files, they haven't led to a major reduction in overall caseload.

### ***Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy***

Ms. Crocco shared that the Tribunal is developing a policy on the use of artificial intelligence. The policy will address how AI may be used by parties appearing before the Tribunal. It will also make clear that adjudicators will not use AI tools to draft their decisions, and it will outline potential risks associated with AI use by parties.

A draft of the policy will be sent to the AC for written feedback before the next meeting.

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## **7 Next Meeting Dates**

- Tuesday, March 24, 2026
  - Tuesday, May 26, 2026
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