



### OLPC 2014 Membership Meetings

All meeting dates are Fridays.

- o February 21, 2014
- o April 11, 2014
- o June 13, 2014
- o August 8, 2014
- o October 10, 2014
- o December 12, 2014

### Bill C-18 Agricultural Growth Act

In early December, the federal government introduced a new bill, Bill C-18 Agricultural Growth Act. It is described as an Act to amend certain Acts relating to agriculture and agri-food.

Among the key changes being proposed in this bill are amendments to the Plant Breeders' Rights Act to align with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

The Act also includes a new licensing and registration regime for animal feed and fertilizer operators and establishments, increased monetary penalties for violations, stronger controls for agricultural products at the border and requirements for more stringent record keeping to enhance safety.

The bill also amends the Agricultural Marketing Programs Act and the Farm Debt Mediation Act.

The on-line version can be found at:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=6378152>

### Overview of the Role and Responsibilities of the OIE

Dr. Shane Renwick, Director of Animal Health Science Foresight with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was a guest speaker at the December OLPC membership meeting. Shane gave an overview of the OIE, its role and responsibilities.

The World Organisation for Animal Health was formed in 1924 under the name "*Office International des Epizooties*" (OIE). It was established to ensure better cooperation between nations to counter the spread of animal disease. Today, the OIE facilitates intergovernmental cooperation to improve animal health throughout the world. There are 178 member countries that provide voluntary financial contributions to fund the organization. Canada's annual membership is \$200,000 and \$500,000 is donated to the OIE World Fund.

There are six key objectives of the OIE:

- Ensure transparency of the animal disease situation globally.
- Collect, analyze and disseminate veterinary scientific information and disease control methods.
- Encourage international solidarity in animal disease control.
- Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
- Improve the legal framework and resources of Veterinary Services.
- Provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

Reports are posted in the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) database (<http://web.oie.int/wahis>) along with exceptional animal health events.

### Biosecurity Workshop Project

The transfer payment agreement was approved by OMAF in October. The project will involve:

- Producing a generic biosecurity presentation to be used in all biosecurity workshops offered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association under Growing Forward 2. The slide deck will be based on the biosecurity manuals and materials developed by OLPC under GF1.
- Working with the beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, mink, bees, poultry, grains and oilseeds and potatoes commodity organizations to develop commodity-specific materials for use in biosecurity workshops for delivery by OSCIA. This includes customized workshop PowerPoint slide decks for each of the identified commodities and case studies for each commodity that provide practical exercises around implementation of their national biosecurity standards.
- Compiling a reference list of veterinarians and other experts who are willing to act as workshop facilitators.

### National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Update

At the October OLPC meeting, Dr. Norm Willis gave an overview of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council. The purpose of the Council is to establish a more harmonized and integrated approach to the management of the farmed animal health and welfare continuum and system in Canada

The Council provides scientific, strategic policy advice and recommendations on farmed animal health and welfare matters to FPT Regulatory Assistant Deputy Ministers, CFIA, industry, and non-government stakeholders. Implementation is not in the mandate. Additional information is available on their website <http://www.ahwcouncil.ca/>.

### Our Mission

*Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.*