

## **AIC Future Governance Structure**

### **Proposal and Action Items for Stakeholder Groups**

#### **Action Items for Stakeholder Groups**

1. Please distribute this document amongst your executive and/or membership for discussion as you see fit.
2. Provide written feedback to Frances Rodenburg (frodensburg@aic.ca) on the overall plan and the specific items on which we are requesting input by September 15, 2011.
3. If your group finds the plan acceptable, pass a resolution supporting the plan in principle.
4. Nominate someone from your group to serve on the Advisory Council until the 2012 AIC AGM by September 15, 2011.

#### **Proposed New AIC Governance Structure**

This document is a result of deliberations by the AIC Restructuring Task Force formed in December, 2010. We have also had consultations with CAST (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology) in the US.

Your feedback will be analyzed by the Advisory Council, as proposed, this fall and winter. Permanent changes to the AIC structure, if approved, will be implemented at the 2012 AGM.

#### **Overall Structure**

The governance structure would be comprised of two bodies, a larger advisory group (to be called something like the Advisory Council) and a smaller group to serve as the Board of Directors.

There would be a nominating committee chaired by the Past President with representation from the committees of the Advisory Council to address membership of both the Advisory Council and Board of Directors.

#### **Advisory Council**

##### **Purposes**

- To allow stakeholder groups to discuss and deliberate, on a broad level, the vision and direction of AIC
- To provide input and advice on policy and projects to the Board of Directors
- To provide a pool of people who could serve on AIC committees providing support and input to staff as requested
- To serve as a pool of knowledgeable future members of the Board of Directors
- To allow government employees who cannot serve on the Board to have participate and lend their expertise to AIC goals.
- To directly involve a broad range of members from the agricultural sector

##### **Composition**

There would be a total of 12 – 15 members with our current membership base. When we have more member organizations, the number of members on the Advisory Council could increase.

There would be 3 or 4 standing committees to which members of the Advisory Council would belong. CAST, for example, has 3 committees: plant, animal and food. Since several of our association members are agrologists' institutes, we might have one with an interest in professionalism issues. The structure, function and membership of committees would be finalized over the next year.

Stakeholder groups who have paid dues to AIC will be allowed to nominate one member. Some non dues-paying groups that represent other industry perspectives may be requested to nominate members at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Certain members of the Board of Directors would be delegated to be part of this group (one per committee).

There would be an effort made to ensure the Advisory Council is balanced based on geography (minimum one per province?), gender (at least three males and at least three females), age (over/under 40?).

There would also be balanced representation from different sectors, i.e. federal and provincial government, industry and academia.

If, after nominations were received, there were major gaps in representation the nominating committee would be empowered to seek out qualified persons to fill these gaps.

If an Advisory Council member moves to the Board of Directors their position would be considered vacant and would be filled by a new member.

Individual members would not have representation *per se* on the Advisory Board.

### **Process**

The Advisory Council would meet in person once per year. Committees could meet at that time and in between, as frequently as they feel appropriate.

Meetings would be by teleconference unless a majority of members were going to be in one location for another reason. Committees would elect their own chairs at their first meeting.

There would be consultation with the general membership via surveys, email, phone calls, etc.

This is an advisory group and recommendations to the Board would not be binding.

The current Task Force will serve in the capacity of an Advisory Council until the 2012 AIC AGM. Member groups will nominate their representatives, who might be the current Task Force member.

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Purpose**

Assume fiduciary responsibility for the organization

Be responsible for setting goals and strategic direction of the organization

## Composition

President Elect, President, Past President, Treasurer, 3 directors to liaise with Advisory Council (one per committee) and the executive director (ex- officio) as secretary.

Balanced representation would be sought based on the general criteria outlined for the Advisory Council.

Once on the Board of Directors, a member is working on behalf of AIC, not the group from which they originated.

For the next year (2011 – 2012) we will go with the current AIC Board with some additions to fill vacancies. (We will require 3 additional Board members for the coming year and would welcome nominations from stakeholder groups.)

The President Elect position would be open to nominations from any member (individual or group) in good standing of AIC. The election would be by the Advisory Council and Board of Directors.

The Treasurer would be appointed by the Nominating Committee.

## Fees

### *Background*

*At the present time membership fees are approximately \$ 50K or 6% of AIC revenue. This is comprised of \$38K from individual members and \$ 12K from associations.*

*We currently operate on a roughly break even basis. In order to undertake new projects such as revising the website, preparing issue papers and raising the profile of AIC, revenues need to increase.*

*Currently we have 7 scientific societies plus Dairy Farmers of Canada that pay \$ 1000, Ontario Institute of Agrologists pay \$1000 and the NB and Nfld agrologists each pay \$500. Individual members currently pay \$125.*

*If we could raise an additional \$30 – 50K it would put AIC on a much more viable footing.*

### **Possible New Fee Structure**

<u>Type of entity</u>	<u>Annual Fees</u>
Not for profit groups (Scientific societies, agrology institutes, ??)	
Over 125 members	1000
75 - 125 members	750
50 - 75 members	500
25 – 50 members	250
Less than 25 members	\$10/member
National producer groups	1000
Companies (< \$1m sales, # of employees?)	2500
Companies (>\$1m sales, # of employees?)	5000
Individuals	150

**Issues requiring feedback**

1. Should all members of stakeholder groups automatically be AIC members (i.e. a portion of their fees would be directed to AIC (*déjà vu*)?)

2. Reciprocal members

We currently have several reciprocal members such as CAST, the 4-H Council and the Canadian Farm Business Management Council. We do not feel that they should be entitled to a seat on the Advisory Council but would like some way to engage them more fully. Any suggestions would be welcome.