



Announcement

14 January 2021

The Boards of Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia (DFNS) and Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island (DFPEI) are pleased to announce they have agreed to share the services of one general manager for both organizations.

The DFNS board has appointed DFPEI General Manager Doug Thompson as General Manager of DFNS effective 17 January 2022. The agreement leading to this appointment was approved following extensive discussions between the executives of the organizations and was endorsed by both boards. The term of the agreement is one year, which is considered an appropriate period to establish the viability of the concept and develop effective working parameters for the position. The initial engagement will allow the boards to determine if the concept can work or if a different management model will be needed in the future.

This agreement recognizes the desire to develop joint services that was expressed by dairy farmers from across the region at the joint forum held in November 2018. Although a full consolidation of services is not envisioned at this time, this initiative is seen as a positive first step towards finding ways to work together. The vision expressed at the 2018 forum in Moncton was very ambitious, but the practical development of consolidated services will be an evolutionary process. It is important to realize that all Canadian dairy organizations need an independent presence in their home province, but the Board's are interested in finding efficiencies in providing administrative services.

The Boards have recognized that there are policy issues specific to each jurisdiction that are best served by someone dedicated to that province. DFPEI has already hired a Policy and Operations Officer and DFNS is planning to engage a new employee to fill this role in Nova Scotia. In the interim, Mr. Thompson will fill the policy advisor role for DFNS and DFPEI. This interim period will provide the opportunity to train and mentor these employees for the very complex dairy policy tasks.

This initiative is obviously a big step. However, given the challenges faced by our organizations, especially in the areas of human resources and technology, it is considered the best option to manage services for the future.

Gerrit Damsteegt
Chairman
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia

Gordon MacBeath
Chairman
Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island