

# HCBC & Equine Canada's Service Agreement FAQ'S

Press Release – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## **Q: Have we said "no" to Equine Canada?**

**A:** We have only said "no" to the 2011 Service Agreement, Horse Council BC is still a member of Equine Canada. HCBC has said "yes" to participate with all the provinces and Equine Canada in a National Reform during 2011. [Read More](#). HCBC understands and supports the need for a strong National Association that is accountable and offers services that will positively impact and grow the equine industry and develop elite sport.

## **Q: Did HCBC commit to a mandatory \$10 Equine Canada membership for 2011?**

**A:** No... Other province's Service Agreements committed their membership to a membership fee of \$5 in 2010 and \$10 in 2011 effectively making it a two year agreement. HCBC's Service Agreement was for one year only. Equine Canada made an offer of \$5 membership fee on September 2010.

HCBC's 2010 Service Agreement lists a membership fee to EC for 2010 at \$5 and does not mention a fee for 2011. Equine Canada notified HCBC two days prior to our launch of the 2011 online membership renewal system that they wanted a \$10 membership fee for 2011. At this point no agreement was in place and negotiations were on going.

## **Q: Why did negotiations take until March 2011?**

**A:** Following the approval and signing of the 2010 Service Agreement March 27, 2010, Horse Council BC sent a proposed 2011 Service Agreement to Equine Canada for approval. Equine Canada did not begin negotiations until September 2010. The process then began in earnest until the final version was received by HCBC on March 11, 2011.

HCBC met with Equine Canada at the January EC Convention and other occasions where we offered amended terms or to renew the 2010 Service Agreement for 2011. Equine Canada declined the offer and proceeded to withdraw membership services to BC residents.

## **Q: Why minimal communication with members until now?**

**A:** As is standard business practice, both parties agreed to keep details of the agreement confidential while negotiations were ongoing.

## **Q: What are some of issues?**

**A.**

- ❖ HCBC wants optional membership, which is reciprocal to EC's new bylaws allowing you to join either or both organizations.
- ❖ HCBC wanted the continuation of the 2010 Service Agreement clause allowing EC officials the choice of working, volunteering or officiating at provincially recognized HCBC competitions without penalty or fines. The Equine Canada 2011 Service Agreement proposal substantially changed this.

- ❖ HCBC could not accept Equine Canada allowing its committees to impose rules that would supersede the service agreement at any time.

**Q: Is this really just about a \$5 verses \$10 EC membership fee?**

**A:** No... The fee could not be agreed upon as a separate issue apart from the whole service agreement. HCBC felt the membership fee was only one element of a multiple issue agreement. Equine Canada treated the membership fee a separate non-negotiable issue.

As the provincial equine sport association HCBC strives to develop programs that support all aspects of equine activity. Access to industry professionals is crucial to the delivery of safe grassroots sport development at the local and provincial level.

Horse Council BC provides many programs that benefit a wide range of BC horse people including: education, safety, welfare, competition, coaching and recreation. To see what Horse Council BC does for members view the [2011 Operational Plan](#).