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PRESS RELEASE

THE CARTV TAKES A POSITION ON ORGANIC AQUACULTURE FARMING

Montreal, May 22, 2019 - The Conseil des appellations réservées et des termes valorisants (CARTV) has announced by news release that it has decided to recognize aquaculture production, as provided for in the new federal regulations, but to only allow the certification of aquatic and non-terrestrial plants.

The CARTV made this decision following consultations between January 14 and March 14, 2019 on a recent federal regulatory amendment pertaining to the organic designation in aquaculture. The federal government adopted new *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)*, whose organic certification requirements now cover aquaculture, that is, aquatic cultivation and breeding.

These changes raise concerns due to the possibility of certifying organic terrestrial plants, for example, fruits and vegetables grown in aquaponic systems that combine crop and livestock production. However, organic hydroponics, that is, growing plants in water without soil, is prohibited in Canada.

In the CARTV's view, these two standards would have confused consumers and called into question the very principles of organic farming. In this context, as proposed by Quebec's Organic Standards Committee, the CARTV decided to uphold the initial principle of the organic aquaculture standard in its specification manuals, that is, to authorize the cultivation and sale of aquatic plants and exclude the cultivation and sale of terrestrial plants derived from aquaponics.

"By taking this position, we are ensuring the consistency of organic production in Quebec," concluded Pascale Tremblay, CARTV President.

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