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Results of Apple Industry Development Commission Vote

Kelowna, BC – The Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA) today announced the results of a vote on a proposed Apple Research and Promotion Agency. The initiative was designed to help industry act collectively on research and promotion projects. Registered apple growers (those with over 2 acres producing apples) were asked, "Do you support The Plan to Establish an Apple Industry Development Council for British Columbia Apple Producers, November, 2013"?

The vote, counted today, is

YES	135
NO	133
Spoiled	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	269
Eligible voters from Master List	623

The plan called for a minimum of 40% of registered growers to vote in order to achieve a valid result. A total of 43.2% voted, so the BCFGA considers the result to be valid.

The plan called for a minimum of 65% of votes to be "Yes" in order to consider the vote positive and make a recommendation that the Minister approve the plan. Only 50% voted "Yes", so the plan will not be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture.

"While the BCFGA hoped that the initiative would pass, it is clear that the industry is not ready for an Apple Research and Promotion Agency. We will advise the apple associations from other provinces that the initiative is ended, and pursue other strategic approaches to improving our industry," said Fred Steele, President of the BCFGA.

Further information on the initiative is available at the website <u>www.bcapplecouncil.org</u> The BCFGA is an agriculture association with a membership of 550 commercial tree fruit growers in BC. It celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2014.

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Further information:

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