

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

July 29, 2016



CHC Apple Working Group

Working Towards a National Tree Fruit Renewal Program

At the July 26 meeting of the Apple Working Group, progress was made on several initiatives. The AWG is composed of representatives from each apple producing province Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and BC - Prince Edward Island representatives attended as there has been recent growth in that area. Attending for BC were Fred Steele, BCFGAs President, and Alan Tyabji, CEO of BC Tree Fruit Cooperative. Glen Lucas, BCFGAs General Manager, attended by teleconference.

The AWG discussed the usual items, including crop estimates, apple market situation and trends, trade, and product regulations.

The group also heard about plans for national research priorities session, which will assist in putting together national research projects. The apple sector has been very successful in obtaining Growing Forward 1 and Growing Forward 2 funding for research into control of storage diseases, seasonal climate impact on apple storage, rootstock trials for Honeycrisp and other topics. Preparing a list of national research priorities will help obtain funding for the most important projects to the Canadian tree fruit sector.

A research project is also planned to investigate rapid virus detection.

The BC delegates also heard of the ongoing interest of the other provincial apple associations to establish a national research and promotion agency, which would be funded by levies from domestic and imported apples. A committee has been established to work on the project.

Finally, the group heard about a proposal developed by the BCFGAs for a national Tree Fruit Renewal Program. The details will be finalized in the coming months and then the proposal will be presented to the federal Minister of Agriculture. Overall, this New Brunswick session of the AWG made progress on national objectives - the next mid-summer meeting will be in Quebec.

Tree Fruit Replant Program 2016 and 2017

An update

An initial batch of project (in priority order by horticultural score) was funded from the original allotment of \$1,190,400. A second batch of projects was funded from the additional \$300,000 funding for this year, when the province responded positively to a BCFGAs request for additional program funds.

As the first two batches of projects get inspected, there is 'slippage' - when a project plants less trees than expected. This slippage will release previously committed funds, and these released funds are made available to the next projects on the list, in priority order. We are expecting to send out a third batch of project approvals in the next two weeks.

A reminder that the Ministry of Agriculture and the BCFGA are working towards having the *Tree Fruit Replant Program 2017/18* intake documents available on their websites for August 1, 2016 with the deadline date ending October 31, 2016.

How to contact the BCFGA Office

<p>BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1. • Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. • Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3. • Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
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Dates and Events- check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Meetings Attended recently and upcoming

Date	Meeting	BCFGA representative
July 22	Business Roundtable on Climate Leadership, Jonathan Wilkinson, MP & Stephen Fuhr, MP	Bunvir Nijjer
August 2	Labour Market Conference Call	Glen Lucas
August 3	Meeting, Richard Cannings, MP	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
August 4-5	Orchard tours, John Horgan, Provincial Leader of the Opposition	Fred Steele, Peter Simonsen, Deep Brar, Glen Lucas
August 10	Centre for Plant Health planning meeting	Summerland Varieties Corporation reps, Glen Lucas
August 10	BC Agriculture Council 'Public Trust'	Glen Lucas
August 11	BCFGA Executive meeting	Executive
August 16	Norm Loonie memorial, 10:30 a.m.	
August 17	Fruit and Tree Nut Biosecurity Advisory Committee	Glen Lucas