

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

May 20, 2016



### **Bravo review**

#### **grower use surveys urgently needed**

If you use Bravo, please respond to [a survey of use](#). The Canadian Horticultural Council is coordinating a national response to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) review of Chlorothalonil (Bravo).

It is urgently important that CHC receive completed survey information from cherry and soft fruit producers on their use and use pattern related to the application of Chlorothalonil (Bravo). This is an important pesticide for use in cherry production and as heard at the CHC Annual General Meeting, the PMRA has proposed the cancellation of certain uses and significant restriction for other uses.

CHC is looking to fill in the gaps based on data received to date. **CHC has noted that no cherry data have been received, so please respond to [the grower use survey](#) if you grow cherries or soft fruit.**

The information is required by end of day MAY 30.

### **2016 Census - Statistics Canada**

#### **We need accurate Census data to maintain programs and funding**

Statistics Canada conducts a census every five years and the Census of Population is being conducted this month of May 2016. The census information is used extensively in government planning. Industry programs are designed based on census data. Please take the time to complete the Agriculture Census, as this is a once-every-five-years event that will help maintain programs that match industry needs.

Note that Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) workers are also included in this census. Individual workers that are living in Canada on May 10, 2016 need to fill out a Census form. The questionnaire can be filled out online (if an access code has been provided) or you can request a paper copy by calling 1-855-699-2016. Employers can help the SAWP workers in filling out the census or the survey and assistance is available in other languages. Visit [the 2016 Census website](#) for further information.

## Mexican SAWP Worker Scam

### Ask your workers to be aware and to report

The BC Agriculture Council notes that a SAWP worker has been scammed out of \$1500 after receiving a ransom note for his supposedly abducted family in Mexico. Please alert your SAWP workers to this scam. Here is the article from the Abbotsford News with details - and note this is not the first time this has occurred.

Abbotsford News

# Police warn of farmworker scam

## Caller tells man that family in Mexico was abducted and he must pay ransom

**VIRAI HOPES**  
Abbotsford News

A seasonal farmworker is out \$1,500 after he recently received a phone call telling him that his family in Mexico had been abducted and they would be killed if he didn't send money to a drug cartel.

The Abbotsford Police Department has since confirmed that the call was a scam, and they are now warning others to be wary of similar ploys.

Const. Ian MacDonald said the worker received the threatening call on Friday, May 6.

The caller, who knew personal information about the victim, demanded that the man send \$3,000 as soon as possible in order to spare the lives of his family members.

The shaken worker then went to his employer and requested an advance on his pay, saying he had a family medical emergency in Mexico.

After the man had left and was arranging a wire transfer of the funds, his fellow workers told their employer what had really happened. The boss called the Abbotsford Police Department and the Mexican consulate, but by the time they intervened, the worker had already sent half of the funds that had been demanded.

Meanwhile, the employee was able to reach his family members in Mexico, and they indicated they were all safe.

MacDonald said police have confirmed that the money was transferred to Mexico and that the caller spoke in Spanish, but they have been unable to trace the source of the call.

He said the caller either obtained information about the victim online or perhaps knew people who were familiar with the man.

Police advise that anyone experiencing a similar scam call them at 604-859-5225 or text abbypd (222973) to report it.



**MACDONALD**

## A Welcoming Communities Summit- Okanagan College, Penticton

BCFGA members are invited to attend Welcome 2016 which is a Welcoming Communities Summit to be held at the Okanagan College in Penticton, BC on June 17th and 18th, 2016. This event has been organized by the South Okanagan/Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership. There will be sessions and keynotes speaking on social and economic integration for new immigrants. For further information and registration visit their [website](#).

## An Opportunity for Housing 12 SAWP workers in Kelowna

If you are seeking housing for your workers this season, the “Inn from the Cold” building located on 1157 Sutherland Road in Kelowna, BC is available for rent from April 1st to October 15th, 2016. The housing inspection has been done and the building is approved for 12 people (all male or female). The renter will need to provide one stove and arrange its electrical hook up. The building is located across from the Capri Centre Mall. The grower will need to provide transportation for the workers to and from the farm to the housing. Rent to be negotiated with the “Inn From The Cold” association. If interested, please contact Bunvir Nijjer, BCFGA Corp. Secretary at 250-762-5226 ext.4 or via email [bnijjer@bcfga.com](mailto:bnijjer@bcfga.com).

### How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226  
Toll free -1-800-619-9022



- 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.

**Dates and Events**- check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information