

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



October 23, 2015

Election Debrief

A change in government

The federal election held on October 19, 2015 resulted in substantial new representation in the tree fruit growing regions in BC, with one MP re-elected, two new MPs elected where there was no incumbent, and 2 new MPs who defeated incumbents:

- Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola Conservative incumbent Dan Albas
- Kelowna-Lake Country Liberal candidate Stephen Fuhr (defeats Conservative incumbent Ron Cannan)
- Kootenay-Columbia NDP Wayne Stetski (defeats Conservative incumbent David Wilks)
- North Okanagan-Shuswap Conservative candidate Mel Arnold (no incumbent)
- South Okanagan-West Kootenay NDP candidate Richard Cannings (no incumbent)

Fred Steele, President of the BCFGA congratulated Stephen Fuhr on election night, noting that the Fuhr will be important in communicating with the ruling Liberal majority government. The BCFGA met with two of the elected MPs during the campaign to explain the role of tree fruit in the local economy, and the BCFGA has held many meetings and attended many functions with MPs from the previous parliament.

The BCFGA notes the exemplary service and dedication shown by Ron Cannan, outgoing MP for Kelowna Lake Country. Mr. Cannan was always available to listen and consider the proposals of the BCFGA. Cannon was a relentless supporter of the tree fruit sector. The BCFGA is sending a special note of appreciation to Mr. Cannan.

The BCFGA is working with other Canadian apple associations, the Canadian Horticultural Council, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and the BC Agriculture Council to gain federal government support for tree fruit and agriculture priorities.

Season of Meetings

BCFGA Regional Meetings

A notice of meeting is going out to all members. The dates of the BCFGA Regional meetings are November 9 at the Ramada in Kelowna and November 10 at the Oliver Recreation Centre. Both meetings are 6 - 8 pm. A meeting notice - agenda is being mailed out to all members, or you can check the events calendar on the main page of the [BCFGA website](#).

Annual Convention

The BCFGAs Annual Convention is being held January 29-30 at the Ramada in Kelowna.

How to contact the BCFGAs Office

BCFGAs Office
250-762-5226
or 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

2016 Tree Fruit Replant Program Announcement

The updated requirements of the 2016 Replant Program are available on the BCFGAs Website, www.bcfga.com. The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Norm Letnick, announced the opening of the new program on Oct. 15. The deadline for application is Nov. 20, 2015.

The Tree Fruit Replant Program is a 7 year, \$8.4 million program, funded by the Province of BC.

Obsolete Pesticide Collection In interior BC

Collection sites will be open on the days specified from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thanks to Clean Farms for organizing these events.

Kootenay Region (Okanagan has been completed)

- November 4: Truscott Farms in Creston at 3016 Hwy 3
- November 5: Top Crop Garden, Farm and Pet in Cranbrook at 2101 Cranbrook Street

Get Involved in Research

Supporting the Advancement of Women in Agriculture

As part of its three-year research project, Supporting the Advancement of Women in Agriculture, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) is conducting a survey to examine possible barriers to women advancing to leadership roles in agriculture. Both women and men are invited to complete the 15-minute survey available [here](#).