

BC Fruit Growers' Association Friday File

September 18, 2015



Mark your Calendar **National Ag Leaders Debate**

Date: Wednesday, Sept 30th
Time: 8 AM - 11 AM Pacific Time

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture is hosting a National Agriculture Leaders Debate in the lead up to the October 19 election. The debate will highlight issues facing Canadian farmers and give an opportunity for each party to outline its platform positions as they pertain to Canada's farm and food future.

The debate will be available via webcast; you must register in advance. Register [here](#). The debate will also be broadcast on CPAC.

Featuring

- *Gerry Ritz, Conservative Minister of Agriculture*
- *Malcolm Allen, NDP Agriculture Critic*
- *Mark Eyking, Liberal Agriculture Critic*
- *Bruce Hyer, Green Party Deputy Leader*
- *Bloq Québécois, representative TBC*

Federal Election **Local All-Candidates meetings**

The local Chambers of Commerce often organize all-candidates forums. The BCFGGA has offered to sponsor these meetings, which often gives the opportunity for the BCFGGA to pose an agriculture-related question. Also, it gives us an opportunity to promote and raise the profile of the tree fruit sector.

Growers may wish to meet with individual candidates to find out where the parties stand on agriculture issues. Here are some links to agriculture programs and policies that are being promoted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Horticultural Association:

CFA <http://www.cfa-fca.ca/node/2238>

CHC <http://www.hortcouncil.ca/tools/advocacy.aspx>

BC Ministry of Agriculture

Government Staff changes

Grant Parnell, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Business Development Division, is retiring.

Arif Lalani accepted the position of ADM, Business Development Division, effective September 14, 2015. Lalani comes from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, where he was the Executive Director of Provincial Services in the Policy and Provincial Services Division.

Joan Easton has accepted the position of Director, Innovation and Adaptation Services, effective October 5, 2015. Easton comes from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Prior to joining MCFD, Easton worked in the Premier's Office as the Director of Service Planning and in the Ministry of Forests as the Manager of Strategic Policy.

Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program

Housing Inspectors must be accredited

The qualifications of housing inspectors are currently being verified by Service Canada. One inspection in the Fraser Valley and one in the Okanagan was recently rejected, as the inspectors had not kept up their certifications. Housing inspectors are required to be certified by a recognized housing inspection association. The BCFGAs, through the BC Agricultural Council is following up and will generate a list of qualified housing inspectors in the next newsletter.

If you are getting a housing inspection in the next few months, please confirm that the housing inspector is certified by one of the following organizations. The following associations are recognized for assessing the qualifications for home inspectors in British Columbia:

1. [Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia-\(ASTT\)](#)
2. [Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors \(BC\) - \(CAHPI\(BC\)\)](#)
3. [Canadian National Association of Certified Home Inspectors - \(CanNachi\)](#)
4. [National Home Inspector Certification Council - \(NHICC\)](#)

Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program

Annual Program Review

Pinder Dhaliwal and Glen Lucas will be attending provincial meetings to review SAWP requirements and agreements with the foreign governments. There are two sets of meetings - one for Mexico (October 13 - 14) and one for the Caribbean Commonwealth countries. The BCFGAs is leading the Caribbean meeting on behalf of the BC Agriculture Council.

Following the regional SAWP meetings, held in each province, the national SAWP meetings are held in late November, early December. Terms of the employment agreements are determined at the meetings (minimum wage, minimum hours of employment, housing, transportation, etc).

No Answer!

The BCFGA telephone system was not working for part of Friday morning, September 18. People phoning the BCFGA heard a 'phone ringing' tone, but there was no ringing on our office phones, so the phone call went unanswered and there was no option to leave a message. The problem is fixed now. If you called us on September 17 or 18 and did not get through, please try again.

How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA 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 will be available in late September on the BCFGA Website, www.bcfga.com

The deadline for applications is November 16, 2015.

An horticultural advisor is required to help prepare and sign individual applications for the 2016 Tree Fruit Replant Program.

- a. A list of qualified advisors will be provided on the BCFGA website, or contact the BCFGA.
- b. An example of a high quality project will be provided on the BCFGA website.
- c. A series of reports on replanting and varieties are available and should be referenced when preparing a 2016 Tree Fruit Replant Program application. Links are available on the BCFGA website.

The Replant Program provides funding for quality projects. Applications will be rated by a committee of horticultural experts. The rating of individual applications will be based on meeting the program requirements and on the quality of their replant plan. Projects will be placed in order of the rating for the projects, and the top-rated projects will be approved until all funding is utilized.

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