

2018 BCFGAs Resolutions Status Report
February 12, 2019

I. Complimentary

1. Appreciation

2. Municipal Support for Tree Fruit Industry Priorities

II. Financial Programs

3. Replant Grant for Soft Fruit

Therefore Be It Resolved to increase the replant grant per tree for soft fruit.

The replant grant for soft fruit is increased to \$5.50 for the 2019 Replant Program.

4. Replant Waitlist Eligibility In Following Year

Therefore Be It Resolved that growers on a replant waitlist but not funded in the year should be eligible in the following year.

There is no longer a waitlist for the Replant Program. The wait list is now funded by the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund.

5. Long-term Replant Funding

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs continue to lobby for successful long term replant program.

A request to add 4 years to the current replant program has been submitted to the province, but a response has not yet been received.

6. Increase Replant Grant to Reflect Inflation

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs request the government to increase the level of replant grant to reflect inflation.

In the request to add 4 years to the current replant program (3, above), a request to increase funding was included.

7. Re-Introduce Transition Production Assistance Program

Therefore Be It Resolved that the government mandate the re-introduction of the Transitional Production Assistance Payment in the Replant Program.

The Board decided to focus on extension and increase of the program (see 3 and 4 above). Potentially, with increased funding, a TPAP-like payment could be added.

8. National Packinghouse Infrastructure and 'Bare Land' Program

Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGAs seek funding for a national infrastructure and 'bare land' planting program through a no-interest loan for the first five years.

The CHC Appl Working Group was hosted by the BCFGa in Summerland this summer. At that meeting, the CHC AWG agreed that the 'Bare Land' Program was a national priority.

9. Affordable Hail Insurance Premiums

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGa work to maintain the current Production Insurance program at an affordable premium cost.

BCFGa continues to participate in the Tree Fruit Production Insurance Advisory Committee.

III. Trade, Taxes and Regulations

10. Local Government Hiring

Therefore Be It Resolved that relationships be built with local governments to determine if appropriate staffing levels dedicated to agriculture are in place, and

Further Be It Resolved that local governments involve agriculture associations in their hiring processes for staff who have agricultural responsibilities.

The BCFGa activity on this resolution was deferred due to other activity on ALR housing and the municipal election in November.

11. Minimum Wage - Helping the Agriculture Sector Adjust

Therefore Be It Resolved that government off-set the increase in minimum wage through increased funding of agricultural programs, introduction of tax credits for farming in relation to the employment of low-skill workers, and reducing regulatory costs for growers, and

Further Be It Resolved to provide options for worker housing to be built on farmland and to provide funding for worker housing - bunkhouse style.

The BCFGa has previously requested government programs and funding related to tax credits and housing.

12. Strengthen Farm Practices Protection Act and Educate Neighbours

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial government strengthen the Farm Practices Protection Act to ensure it achieves its original intent, and

Further Be It Resolved that the ALC and Provincial government better educate the public about farming practices and commercial agriculture, and

Further Be It Resolved that properties bordering or in the ALR must have a attached in the registry requiring the realtor to obtain a signed consent form recognizing that the property is in the ALR and subject to the Farm Practices Protection Act, and that realtors provide a Ministry of Agriculture pamphlet on Normal Farm Practices to the purchaser, prior to transfer of the property, and

Further Be It Resolved that local governments and the ALR strengthen the protection of ALR lands by strengthening the buffer and set-back requirements of non-farm use bordering ALR properties.

The BCFGa participated in the ALR review, making a formal submission. An initial set of decisions was made by government (i.e. one zone instead of 1, housing size restriction, and

prohibition of dumping on ALR). A second round of decisions is expected in the coming months.

13. Protect Worker Housing

Therefore Be It Resolved that worker housing needs to be protected through the Farm Practices Protection Act and an updated Farm Worker Housing Bylaw Standard.

The BCFGA has requested that the province update the Farm Worker Housing Bylaw Standard.

14. Taxation of Capital Gains Exemption

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC encourage the federal government to maintain the existing rules for farms in regards to the Capital Gains Exemption.

The Capital Gains Exemption on farmland sales remains in place.

15. Support the Continuation of NAFTA

Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGA support and encourage the federal government the continuation of NAFTA.

The Canada-US-Mexico Free Trade Agreement is ratified.

IV. Crop Protection

16. Funding for Invasive Pests and the National Plant and Animal Health Strategy

Therefore Be It Resolved that the federal and provincial governments properly fund the monitoring and control of invasive pests.

While new funding is not allocated, the CFIA has responded vigorously to Apple Maggot detections, and the new, national Animal and Plant Health Council has been initiated.

17. Grower Working Group on Invasive Pests

Be It Resolved that BCFGA establish a grower-based working group to develop a plan to combat invasive pests.

The BCFGA participates in the Tree Fruit Sub-Committee of the BC Plant Protection Advisory Committee and the SIR program, the latter is considering expanding its scope. The BCFGA Crop Protection Committee is also active.

18. Expand mandate of SIR to cover invasive pests

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA urgently investigate expanding the mandate of SIR to monitor and have bylaws on pests other than Codling Moth - such as Apple Maggot, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

The SIR program is actively considering expanding its scope.

19. Urban Deer Cull

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA seek support for urban deer cull and other practices (such as a new limited entry hunting program) to manage the problem urban deer population.

The BCFGGA placed this as a priority and will be seeking funding in the coming year to establish a project.

20. Availability of Product to Reduce Resistance of Pests to Treatments

Therefore Be It Resolved that CHC lobby PMRA to maintain Polyram, Dithane, and Manzate as legal fungicides on tree fruits.

CHC lobbied with vigour to maintain the fungicide products. See the Crop Protection Committee Report.

21. Starling Control

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA continue to support the Starling Control Program, and

Further Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA work to ensure the Starling Control Program continues to improve monitoring and trapping for areas where populations are increasing and for areas which are the source of starling populations that cause damage to tree fruit in the Okanagan.

The BCFGGA continued to support the Starling Control Program with funding and participating in the program steering committee.

V. Water and Environment

22. Adequate, Affordable and Reliable Water

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA work with local governments to ensure adequate, affordable, and reliable water for agriculture irrigation and

Further Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA advocate for an Agricultural Water Reserve.

BCFGGA continues to be active in the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and to advocate there for an Agriculture Water Reserve.

23. Funding to Expand Water Supply Systems

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGGA work with water purveyors to seek funding to expand water supply systems.

The BCFGGA has lobbied the federal government to provide funding to expand water storages of water purveyors. The BCFGGA has also advocated for the re-introduction of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA), which administered the water supply expansion program in previous years.

24. Carbon Credits

Therefore be it resolved that carbon credits be put in place for sequestering carbon in orchards and other horticulture.

The BCFGGA continues to monitor carbon credits and carbon pricing programs for opportunities.

25. Environmental Farm Plan Funding

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial government restore funding to expand the list of projects to include items such as irrigation, and

Further Be It Resolved that the BCAC lobby for more funding for EFP Beneficial Management Practices and a higher percentage of project costs to be funded in order to match the demand.

Total funding for EFP has not changed; however, more tree fruit BMPs are available than in prior years. The BCFGAs were successful in nominating a tree fruit grower, Adrian Arts, onto the EFP/Ag Climate Action Initiative advisory committee.

VI. Labour

26. Increase SAWP Housing Deduction

Therefore Be It Resolved that the allowed housing deduction charged to SAWP workers be increased.

The increased housing deduction was requested but a decision at the national meeting was deferred due to a focus of attention on the introduction of Biometrics in Mexico. The request will be renewed and pursued vigorously in 2019.

27. Grants to Employers of Workers from High-Unemployment Groups

Therefore Be It Resolved that employers of employees from high unemployment groups receive a grant to compensate for the increase in minimum wage and greater discrepancy between productivity and minimum wage for this group of employees.

The concept has been presented but not taken up by government.

28. Worker Housing Bylaws

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGAs strongly represent the industry to local governments when bylaw changes that affect worker housing are concerned.

There were no worker housing bylaws processed in 2018; however, Coldstream is considering worker housing bylaws at this time. BCFGAs are developing a strategy, which may include asking the Minister of Agriculture that the District of Coldstream be regulated under the Farm Practices Protection Act, effectively suspending any farm bylaws unless approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

29. Worker Housing Bylaw Standard

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Minister protect worker housing by updating the farm bylaw standard and

Further Be It Resolved that the Minister direct local governments to follow a new farm worker housing bylaw standard.

The update to the Worker Housing Bylaw has stalled, and BCFGAs have asked BCAC to follow up.

30. SAWP Funding and Communication with Local Consulate Representatives

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCAC work with the consulates from the participating countries to improve effective communication channels and that the BCFGAs lobby for an

additional worker deduction to set up local consulate representatives in the regions where there are large concentrations of workers.

BCFGA presented the request to establish a local Mexican Consulate representative in the Okanagan, but this goal has not been supported yet. Improvements in communication include: Ron Forrest has assisted the Mexican Consulate with communication between employers and workers, and the new Labour Manager at the Western Agricultural Labour Initiative, Veronica Moreno, has facilitated communication with the Mexican Consulate.

31. SAWP Trusted Employer

Therefore Be It Resolved that a “trusted employer” program be established to exempt employers who have passed inspections several years in a row.

The request for a trusted employer program was noted in the recent “What Was Heard” report of the Primary Ag Stream Review by Service Canada. Recommendations have been presented by government staff to the Minister, and decisions are expected in the next few months.

VII. Research

32. Invasive Pest Research Funding

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA seek funding for research projects to manage new invasive pests.

No research proposals have been developed at this time for new invasive pests, other than the Apple Clearwing Moth Project.

VIII. Industry Development

33. Columbia River Treaty Renewal - Impact on BC Agriculture

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA encourage the province to include the impact on BC agriculture in the Columbia River Treaty renewal and

Further Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA seek funding from the re-negotiated Columbia River Treaty for industry development projects.

The BCFGGA continues to pursue the goal of funding of projects in recognition of the impact of the Columbia River Treaty on the BC tree fruit industry.

34. Work With the BC Cherry Association

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA and the BC Cherry Association work together, and that all growers pay a fair share to operate their associations.

The BCFGGA and BC CHerry Association continue to communicate and cooperate, and through the BCAC Interior Hort Sector, meet together with the BC Grapegrowers Association.

35. Obtain New Varieties

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGGA and SVC place extra effort into obtaining new varieties for the industry.

New varieties are contracted as club varieties with marketers and packers, through consortiums of companies around the world. SVC is encouraging local packers to join in consortiums to obtain access to SVC managed varieties.

36. Develop New Club Varieties

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs work with other apple growing regions of the world to come up with new club varieties of tree fruits.

See 35, above.

37. Work With BC Tree Fruit Cooperative on New Varieties

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs place priority on accessing new varieties and

Further Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs work with BC Tree Fruits Co-op to secure any new varieties of tree fruits.

See 35 above.

38. Common Sense Food Safety

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC advocate for common sense, practical food safety programs under CanadaGAP.

BCFGAs took the resolution to the CHC Annual Convention.

IX. Governance

39. Test Orchard Lease Term

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Test Orchard should not be leased more than 3 years.

The test orchard lease to SVC is in place, endorsed by delegates at a previous Annual Convention. The resolution will be considered at the expiry of the current lease, in about 15 years.

40. SVC Board Composition

Therefore Be It Resolved that the SVC Directors be elected half from the South delegates and half from the North delegates.

The BCFGAs Board reviewed resolution and the existing policy of having an independent board for SVC, and decided to keep the status quo of an independent board.

41. Guidelines for Resolving Disputes Between SVC and Growers

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGAs develop guidelines to resolve disputed matters between SVC and growers, and

Further Be It Resolved that BCFGAs request SVC to follow the guidelines and request that the guidelines be applied equally to all growers.

The BCFGAs has received from SVC a description of the process it uses in resolving disputes with clients and has received assurance that the process is applied equally to all growers.

42. Budwood Sales

Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs request SVC to inform BCFGAs members of the amount of budwood sold and where sold.

The General Manager of SVC reported on budwood sales at the prior Annual Convention.

43. Number of BCFGAs Information Sessions

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs should hold more than 2 information meetings per year.

In addition to the Annual Convention, the BCFGAs holds sessions for the TFPG, Regional Annual Meetings and District Council Meetings, as a minimum. The BCFGAs also schedules regional meetings on specific topics and issues as needed.

44. SVC Minutes

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs request that SVC minutes be accessible to all growers.

This resolution did not pass.

45. Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC) Governance Resolution

withdrawn

46. Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC) - Contractual Obligations and Independent Governance

withdrawn

Late Resolution #1 - Farm Industry Review Board Fees

Therefore be it resolved that FIRB introduce a stepped fee schedule for complainants as follows:

- To file a complaint, \$100,
- To proceed to mediation, \$500
- To proceed to hearing, \$1,000 and a bond of \$10,000 to be returned to the complainant 6 months after FIRB rules on the complaint.

Discussions were initiated with BCAC on the topic, and further action is planned.

Late Resolution #2 - SVC Governance

That the SVC Board of Directors should consist of 3 members from the North, 3 from the South and these members be elected from the delegates, and

That following the Annual Convention a meeting of delegates be called to implement new policies to govern the appointment of the SVC Board of Directors.

See resolution 40.

Late Resolution #3 - Emergency Financial Aid

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Provincial and Federal governments provide emergency financial aid of up to \$.07 per pound for the 2017 apple crop.

The last year of ad hoc payments was 2001, with the federal and provincial governments channeling funds through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership and programs under the partnership. The province announced improvements to one of the programs for the 2018

program year - the enhanced AgriStability Program. Several resolutions to the 2019 Annual Convention follow-up on Agri-Stability improvements.