

Guidelines for considering Resolutions

The 2021 Convention will be shorter due to the pandemic. Extended discussions on resolutions will be more challenging due to on-line participation. One way of achieving greater efficiency is to redirect some resolutions.

For the February 21, 2021 Convention, it is proposed that the delegates streamline the process by allocated the resolutions to three 'streams':

Resolutions 1 - 11	<i>Debate and vote on individually (the 'normal' process)</i>
Resolutions 12 - 20	<i>Table to a committee</i>
Resolutions 21 - 23	<i>Add to standing policy</i>
Standing Policy	<i>To adopt certain resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee as Standing Policy. If agreed, Resolutions 21 - 23 will be added to the standing policy.</i>

Guidelines for redirecting resolutions in order to streamline the Annual Convention:

1. Was the resolution passed at a previous convention? Add to Standing resolutions.
2. Is the resolution already in the BCFGAs work plan? Add to Standing resolutions.
3. Does the item directing the Board to do something related to BCFGAs operations or governance (e.g. internal focus, like conducting a membership drive)? Refer to a Committee or the Board.
4. Is the resolution straightforward (not complex), addressing a specific or limited topic, and perceived or expected to have widespread

support of members? Consider adding to standing policy or referring to a Committee or the Board.

Resolutions to be considered at the 2021 BCFGGA Annual Convention

Resolution 1 - Freeze Minimum Wage (North)

Labour

Whereas the British Columbia minimum wage has increased from \$11.35 per hour in 2017 to \$14.60 per hour in 2020. Minimum wage is scheduled to increase further to \$15.20 per hour in 2021 representing a 34% increase since 2017, and

Whereas labour expenses represent a high percentage of operating costs in agriculture, and

Whereas tree fruit growers are price-takers due to great retail concentration in Canada,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial government be requested to freeze the minimum wage.

Resolution 2 Immediate Government Action for the Apple Sector (North)

Industry Development

Whereas the cost of apple production, based on the government's agricultural commodity Enterprise Budgets, is currently \$.39 per pound, and

Whereas the returns for apples in the past two years have been less than half of this value on average, and

Whereas the United States has provided cash payments due to the impact of US trade policy and COVID-19, and

Whereas Ontario increased its support for growers and moved the implementation of enhanced financial programs forward one year, and

Whereas the AgriStability Program, with the enhanced compensation rate put in place in BC, does not increase the number of growers eligible for program payments,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the government take immediate action to rescue the apple sector through the provision of programs that recognize and assist with the real financial situation of apple producers.

Resolution 3 - National Apple Research and Promotion Agency (North) **Industry Development**

Whereas the apple prices have been declining over the past five years and the cost of producing tree fruits has been increasing,

Whereas funding towards post-harvest and horticultural research, quality audits at retail, generic and organic consumer promotion, processing & value-added research of Canadian grown apples could help the industry,

Whereas a National Apple Research and Promotion Agency will build a strong efficient, and sustainable industry for all Canadian apple growers,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC Apple Working Group take steps to initiate the National Apple Research and Promotion Agency.

Resolution 4 - Farm Worker Housing and Regulations (North)

Labour

Whereas farms in the ALR require labour to remain productive, and

Whereas urban housing for farm workers is not available for seasonal agricultural workers due to the overlap with holiday rentals, and

Whereas growers have traditionally provided housing for seasonal agricultural workers (including on-farm campsites for the limited numbers of visiting backpackers who work on Okanagan farms), and

Whereas municipalities are introducing regulations which restrict housing, cause delays in approvals, and require more expense in permitting, and

Whereas the municipal bylaws are intended to eliminate non-farm housing but end up interfering with the installation of farm worker housing, and

Whereas the municipal bylaws create and amplify conflict between non-farming neighbours and bonafide farm operations in the ALR, and

Whereas the federal government is getting into the act on proposing another level of regulations for on farm housing,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial Minister of Agriculture regulate the municipalities to allow construction of adequate farm worker housing by bonafide farmers without undue restrictions, and

Therefore Be It Resolved that the national housing regulations not restrict the ability to house adequate numbers of workers, and

Further Be It Resolved that the federal government develop a program to pay for improvements to farm worker housing that are required by federal rules and regulations.

Resolution 5 - Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) Pilot Project for Small Farms

Labour

Whereas agriculture has difficulty finding employees and the Okanagan has very low unemployment rates, and

Whereas COVID-19 has further reduced labour availability, especially for smaller farms that rely on local Canadian workforce, and

Whereas almost all Canadian citizens prefer urban, permanent (not seasonal) work, and

Whereas the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program is a structured and effective way for farms to seasonally employ foreign workers to the benefit of workers and employers, and

Whereas the SAWP program has been effective in providing farmers with a stable workforce from Mexico and the Caribbean Commonwealth countries, and

Whereas the program has minimum requirements of farm employers, including that between two farms, the hours worked must be no less than a 40 hour average per week and no less than a total of 240 hours, and

Whereas there are many farms in the Okanagan that cannot pair up and meet the minimum SAWP hours of work requirements, and

Whereas it may be beneficial to allow more than two farms to partner and provide the minimum hours of work requirements,
Due to the need to rapidly and flexibly expand SAWP workers to harvest the crop,

Therefore Be it Resolved that the BCFGAs seek to have a pilot project where SAWP workers be allowed to work on different farms without the need to transfer, coordinated by a formal agreement that protects the farm participants, the workers and the SAWP program integrity.

Resolution 6 - Replant Program Renewal and Design (South)

Industry Development

Whereas the Replant Program has achieved the renewal of orchards making them more competitive, and

Whereas the funding of the Replant Program has declined due to erosion by inflation, and

Whereas cost of replanting have increased,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Replant Program be renewed and provide more flexibility in the compensation provided, including but not limited to an increase in the Replant Grant per tree.

Resolution 7 - Insurable Value (South)

Production Insurance

Whereas Production Insurance provides some measure of coverage against risks of weather and other named perils, and

Whereas insurable values, based on historic prices, have been falling or are not representative of actual prices due to limitation of gathering data on tree fruit prices,

Whereas other types of insurance provide replacement coverage, and

Whereas the apple prices have been declining over the past five years and the cost of producing tree fruits (i.e. 'replacement cost') has been increasing, and

Whereas the coverage for Production Insurance is no longer providing adequate coverage,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the insurable value for Production Insurance be adequate to ensure financial viability of the farm by improving the pricing data collection and providing cost-based 'replacement' coverage .

Resolution 8 - Strategic Plan for the Tree Fruit Industry (South)

Industry Development

Whereas the apple acreage has reduced due to an unlevel competitive playing field and

Whereas some way of correcting the economic imbalance for apple production is needed, and

Whereas cherry acreage is expanding rapidly and faces equally difficult challenges such as labour availability, expanding markets, and production research,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA investigate development of a 10 year strategic plan for the tree fruit industry.

Resolution 9 - Food Security / Food Sovereignty (South)

Regulation/Taxes/Fees

Whereas COVID-19 has raised issues to the forefront, including the stability of supply chains and

Whereas the issue of Food Security has been topmost in minds due to the rationing of vaccines and other necessities, and

Whereas an over- reliance on foreign suppliers will prove potentially catastrophic under conditions of further pandemics,

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGA investigate the concepts of Food Security and Food Sovereignty with the purpose of securing Canadian-grown food for Canadian consumption.

Resolution 10 - No Employment Insurance Clawback for Seasonal Farm Work (South)

Labour

Whereas farm labour is seasonal and often a re-entry point into the workforce, and

Whereas during the pandemic, the CERB program and the expanded Employment Insurance coverage did not allow a person to work without a claw-back of earnings over \$1,000 per month, and

Whereas this is a disincentive to work seasonally on farms, and

Whereas removing this disincentive will allow the person to reenter the workforce and help provide the seasonal needs of farms to harvest crops,

Therefore Be It Resolved that *seasonal farm work earnings* for CERB/EI participants not be 'clawed back' from an individual's CERB/EI claims.

Resolution 11 - Subsidized Apple Imports (South)

Industry Development

Whereas the US has and continues to provide substantial subsidies to tree fruit producers, including a 2020 patent of \$0.07 per pound to apple producers and a further \$0.07 to 0.14 per pound to apple producers in 2021, and

Whereas the Canadian government has chosen not to compete by providing comparable agricultural programs,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC Apple Working Group consider a request to impose tariffs on dumped and subsidized apple imports.

Resolutions proposed for TABLING to the BCFGALabour Committee for further study and action

Resolution 12 - Property Insurance for Seasonal Agricultural Worker Housing (North)

TABLE to BCFGALabour Committee

Whereas agricultural employers make a significant investment in on-farm seasonal accommodation for staff, and

Whereas a challenging insurance market has caused private insurers to restrict coverage in some markets,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial government introduce regulations so that temporary (Atco-type) buildings with staff accommodation be made eligible for water damage insurance.

Resolution 13 - Support for Managed, Centralized Campsites for Farm Workers (South)

Table to Labour Committee

Whereas the horticulture sector in the Okanagan relies on workers to hand harvest crops, and

Whereas these jobs are seasonal in nature and attract people who live outside the Okanagan,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGALand BC Grapegrowers' Association investigate and support the establishment of safe, clean and managed campsites for farm workers in the Okanagan.

Resolution 14 - Social Media to Promote Farm Jobs (South)

Table to Labour Committee

Whereas the agriculture industry already faces a shortage of labour,

Whereas due to COVID-19, many of the labour force such as backpackers and Quebecois were unable to travel to the Okanagan, and

Whereas COVID-19 made it even more difficult for farmers to recruit local workers through traditional means including word-of-mouth,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs use Social Media to reach out to potential workers.

Resolutions Proposed for Tabling to the BCFGA Financial Programs Committee for further study and action

Resolution 15 - Late Season Variety Coverage (North)

TABLE to BCFGA Financial Programs Committee

Whereas there have been instances where late season weather causes damage to a late-harvested variety, after all other varieties have been harvested, and

Whereas this indicates that the late-harvested variety is in a different risk class, and

Whereas the principle of the separate coverage for late season varieties is established in the cherry programs,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Production Insurance Program be amended to provide optional coverage for late season varieties when weather events only impact the late season variety, such that the damage is not pooled with all varieties when determining if minimum damage level will trigger a claim.

Resolution 16 - Assess Crop Damage at Time of Damage, if needed for crop planning (South)

Table to BCFGA Financial Programs Committee

Whereas the Production Insurance Branch is unable to provide growers with timely answers and has not been clear in its policy for considering the Sudden Tree Decline as a multi-year peril (e.g. only one deductible for trees affected in different years), and

Whereas the uncertainty of Production Insurance coverage increases stress on growers during what is already a very stressful event on their farms, and

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Production Insurance Branch improve the ability to assess damage as soon as possible after the crop damage occurs, without penalty, in order for the grower to be able to make better decisions on actions to take when crops are damaged.

Resolutions proposed for tabling to the Board of Directors for further study and action

Resolution 17 - Provincial Regulation of Irrigation Rates (North)
TABLE to Board of Directors

Whereas the ALR requires water for productivity, and

Whereas competing agricultural producing areas have affordable irrigation costs, and

Whereas municipalities are not consistent in pricing of agricultural irrigation water and have been increasing costs at more than the rate of inflation,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the province regulate irrigation fees.

Resolutions proposed for tabling to the BCFGAs Environment Committee

Res 18 - Expand Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). (North)

TABLE to Environment Committee

Whereas the number of Beneficial Management Practices (i.e. eligible projects for Environmental Farm Plan funding) are reduced from early years of the program, and

Whereas there is a decline in tree fruit participation in the EFP program over the past 10 years,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the province increase funding of BMPs in the tree fruit sector, such as weather stations and irrigation soil moisture sensors.

Resolutions proposed for TABLing to BCFGA Member Service Committee

Resolution 19 - Public Relations Program (South) TABLE to Member Service Committee

Whereas the majority of Canadians live in urban centres and are disengaged from the agricultural sector and agricultural practices,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA put resources in place for a public relations program to educate the public regarding agricultural practices.

Resolution 20 - Membership Drive (South) Table to Member Service Committee

Whereas communication methods are changing during COVID-19 and farmers are often isolated with many issues and concerns and few opportunities to voice those concerns, and

Whereas the BCFGA plays an important role in facilitating communication between growers, and

Whereas the BCFGA can be a vital link to all levels of government to lobby for primary producers,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA endeavored to expand its membership, encouraging all tree fruit growers to join the association.

Resolutions proposed to be added to Standing Policy for continued action

Resolution 21 - ICBC allow multiple drivers for farm vehicles, without restriction (South)

Standing Policy (previously referred to BCAC).

Whereas ICBC changes require all drivers of a vehicle to be registered/named on the insurance,

Whereas some operators of the farm vehicles are hired seasonally, and

Whereas it can be difficult to name all the drivers operating the farm vehicle on the insurance,

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCAC request ICBC that the farm vehicles be exempt from the requirement of naming all drivers on the insurance.

Resolution 22 - Food Safety Regulations - reduce cost and provide compensation (South)

Standing Policy (previously adopted)

Whereas food safety programs are required by retailers and not regulated by the federal government, and

Whereas food safety programs add more rules each year adding increased record keeping costs for primary producers,

Therefore Be It Resolved that retailers compensate producers for the cost of food safety programs, and

Further Be It Resolved that a limit on food safety rules be introduced that will control regulation and costs on the farm without impacting food safety.

Resolution 23 - Retailer Code of Conduct (South)

Standing Policy (previously adopted)

Whereas the concentration of retailers in the marketplace is leading to unequal market power in which retailers can abuse their dominant market position and impose unreasonable requirements on growers and their packers, and

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC advocate for legislation to implement a broad-based retailer code of practice to avoid further abuse of the dominant market position of highly concentrated retailers.

Standing Policy

Standing Policy 2021 - 2024 Updated November 16, 2020

Consolidated Standing Resolutions to be considered each year at the Annual Convention.

I. Complimentary

1. Appreciation

That the growers of this industry extend their appreciation through the Board to all members of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; BC Ministry of Agriculture and the Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC Programs; Canadian Horticultural Council; Canadian Federation of Agriculture; BC Agriculture Council; AgSafeBC; BC Orchard Industry Museum; Okanagan College; University of British Columbia - Okanagan; Summerland Research and Development Centre; Pest Management Regulatory Agency; BC Investment Agriculture Foundation; Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program; BC Tree Fruits Cooperative; and members of the news media and all others who in any measure have assisted the industry during the past year.

2. Municipal Support for the Tree Fruit Industry Priorities

That the BCFGa recognize and send appreciation to the regional districts and municipalities of the Okanagan for continued support of environmental programs for the tree fruit industry, including

- *The Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program*
- *The Starling Control Program and*
- *Wood waste disposal (stump grinding) programs.*

II. Financial Programs

3. AgriStability Program - Equity for Multiple Commodity Producers (2020)

That the province develop AgriStability options that are more equitable for farmers with multiple commodities.

4. AgriStability Program Improvements (2020)

That the Province ensure that AgriStability provides a higher level of coverage, increasing from 70% to 85% assurance of Program Margin, and allow non-arm's-length labour as an eligible program expense.

5. Support Young Farmers (2020)

That the province support new farmers through the first 5 years of farming by providing a low interest loan.

6. Federal Infrastructure Program for Agriculture (2020)

That rural agricultural infrastructure projects be eligible for the Federal infrastructure program.

III. Trade, Taxes and Regulations

7. ALR Support is Contingent on Farm Viability (

That the BCFGAs support ALR legislation based on the provincial government fulfilling the two essential obligations that were made by government when the ALR was established in 1973:

- 1, preserving farmland for future generations, and,*
- 2, supporting the social and economic viability of family farms.*

8. ALR Diversification and Value-Added

That the Agriculture Land Reserve minimize regulation and allow diversification and value-added farm activities to support bonafide farm operations.

9. Exempt Farming from Provincial Sales Tax

That the province ensure that farming is completely exempt from the Provincial Sales Tax.

IV. Crop Protection

10. Expand Mandate of the Sterile Insect Release Program

That the Sterile Insect Release Program continue to work towards expanding its mandate to include area-wide monitoring, control and enforcement practices of other insect pests, and that the SIR Board develop a policy on how to obtain grower support and cooperation when considering addition of pests to the mandate of the program.

11. Efficient and Effective Sterile Insect Release Program

That the BCFGAs continue to support an efficient and effective Sterile Insect Release (SIR) Program.

V. Water and Environment

12. Increase Funding for Environmental Farm Plan Program

That funding for Environmental Farm Plan and Climate Adaptation programs be increased.

13. National Tree Planting Program

That the federal government introduce a program for tree fruit growers to participate in the federal plan to plant 2 billion trees over the next 10 years.

14. Carbon Credits for Farming

That the government change the carbon credit rules to allow farmers to receive the appropriate carbon credits.

VI. Labour

15. Adequate Notice of Change to Housing Requirements in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

Therefore Be It Resolved that changes to the BC Temporary Foreign Agriculture Worker Housing regulations come into effect 12 months after the change is initially announced.

16. Work Visa After Arrival - International Experience Canada

Therefore Be It Resolved that the International Experience Canada Program participants be allowed to apply for work permits after arrival in Canada.

VII. Research

17. Immediate Research for Apple Clearwing Moth

That immediate federal funding be released for research projects to find effective ways to combat Apple Clearwing Moth.

18. Control Codling Moth Re-Infestation through Bin Movement

That the BCFGA, in cooperation with the SIR Program, seek funding to control Codling Moth Emergence from bin piles, and develop and provide education on the risk of bin movement, and seek to introduce an enforceable protocol for the movement of bins between areas.

VIII. Export Markets

19. Market Access for Apples

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA and CHC take the lead to develop a national export priority list of countries, for apples through the Market Access program, and Further Be It Resolved that an Apple Export Market Access Committee be struck comprised of producers, industry leaders and government to help guide the process.