



## The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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### **BCFGA Awards**

**Penticton** – The annual election of the BCFGAs Executive was held February 4, 2017 in Penticton. The election at the 128th BCFGAs Convention drew a great deal of interest from growers, as incumbent President Fred Steele was being challenged by previous President Jeet Dukhia. Members were surprised when Dukhia withdrew his name from the race the morning of the 2 pm election.

In the election itself, **Fred Steele** was declared President. A motion to open the floor to further nominations for Vice-President failed to be passed. If it had passed, there would have seen competition for previously uncontested Vice-Presidency. **Pinder Dhaliwal** was declared Vice-President.

The other six Executive members of the BCFGAs were also returned. **Peter Simonsen, Ravinder Bains and Deep Brar** were unopposed for the South Okanagan positions, while **Sukhdev Goraya, Surjit Nagra and Tony Nijjar** were returned and challenger Karm Gill was defeated in an election for North Okanagan positions. Both Gill and Dukhia are on the Board of BC Tree Fruit Cooperative.

In his acceptance speech, Fred Steele thanked BCFGAs members for their confidence. He noted the importance of pressing for a national Tree Fruit Rejuvenation Proposal, and the critical need to work together with BC Tree Fruit Cooperative and the other tree fruit packers in the Okanagan. “Our future is bright, and a sign of that is the many young people attending our Convention,” he concluded.

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents 520 family operated farms.

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#### **Further information**

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