



BCFGA Lobby Guidelines

1. **BCFGA lobby efforts will be non-partisan and non-discriminatory.**
 - a. The BCFGGA will **not endorse** a particular political party.
 - b. The BCFGGA will focus its lobby efforts on the laws, regulations and programs proposed by the government in power. The BCFGGA will not comment on proposals of parties **not** in power, as proposals of officials not in power are considered to be hypothetical. The exception is a minority government, where opposition parties may introduce a vote in the parliament with an expectation that the legislation could be approved.
 - c. The BCFGGA will seek opportunity to meet and discuss issues with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs). At all times *except during an election campaign*, the Executive may authorize representatives to attend political functions for a fee or political contribution. The function must provide an opportunity to meet with MLAs or MPs in a tree fruit producing constituency, the Minister of Agriculture or other member of provincial or federal cabinet. Representatives must take appropriate precautions to ensure that they are not seen to be supporting a particular political party in attending the function. For example, the representatives should avoid televised or other media interviews.
 - d. Parliamentary committees are ideal non-partisan forums for BCFGGA to discuss agriculture programs, legislation and regulations.
2. **The BCFGGA will suspend its normal lobby activity during an election campaign.**
 - a. The start of an election campaign is at the ‘dropping of the writ’, or official election call, unless deemed by the Board to be an earlier date.
 - b. The BCFGGA may participate in all-candidate sessions during the campaign period, including sponsoring all-candidate forums.
 - c. The purpose of involvement in an all-candidate session will be to provide a fair and impartial forum for the political parties and their representatives

to present their agricultural policy and the ability of BCFGA members to ask questions with an opportunity for response by all participating candidates.

- d. During an election campaign, the BCFGA will not participate in an event hosted by a single party or its representative. Board members and management are to take appropriate action to ensure that their individual participation in such events is not construed to indicate BCFGA participation or endorsement of a particular political party. This policy may be suspended with a resolution of the BCFGA Board which sets out the date, event and objective of participation in a specific event.
- e. The BCFGA will encourage its members to be politically active for the candidate or party of their choice.
- f. Board members are in a *potential* conflict with BCFGA non-partisan policy when joining or contributing time or money to a provincial or federal political party or candidate, as these actions can be reasonably seen as the BCFGA endorsing a particular candidate. Caution must be exercised to prevent the appearance of BCFGA support for a particular candidate.

3. BCFGA Directors must not be nominees or candidates in provincial or federal elections, nor incumbents of provincial and federal seats.

- a. A BCFGA Board who enters a nomination race or is a candidate for a federal or provincial seat must take a leave of absence until the nomination process or election is completed.
- b. A BCFGA Board who is elected to a federal or provincial seat must resign from the BCFGA, but may be re-elected to the BCFGA executive after resigning or losing the federal or provincial seat.
- c. A BCFGA Board who participates in **Municipal and Regional District** nominations, candidacy or incumbency is not in conflict with the non-partisan policy of the BCFGA. Further, BCFGA Executive may

attend political events at the municipal and regional district level at any time, without being in conflict with the non-partisan policy of the BCFGA.