

# BC Fruit Growers' Association 2019 Annual Convention Portfolio

BCFGA 130th Annual Convention  
Penticton Lakeside Resort  
February 12-13, 2019



## innovation - moving forward



# The BC Fruit Growers' Association



## Our Vision

A Prosperous, Sustainable, Innovative Tree Fruit Sector in BC that grows products that improve health.

## Our Mission

The BCFGGA will ensure a prosperous, financially sustainable and innovative industry through:

- ★ Representing Growers on Trade, Tax, and Regulations at the Regional, Provincial and Federal Levels of Government
- ★ Delivering and Developing Programs that Provide a Benefit for the Tree Fruit Industry
- ★ Promoting Horticultural Knowledge
- ★ Participating in the Design of Risk Management Programs
- ★ Supporting Research and Development in the Tree Fruit Sector
- ★ Establishing Direction for Environmental Farm Plan, Food Safety and Social License Programs
- ★ Developing Area-Wide Programs to Protect Trees and Crops from Pests
- ★ Promoting Marketplace Adaptation through the Adoption of New Varieties of Tree Fruit and New Horticultural Practices
- ★ Alliances with Other Commodity Organizations

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## Notice of Meeting BCFGA Annual Convention

### Time and Date

**Day 1** 1 - 5 pm, Tuesday, February 12, 2019

**Day 2** 8 am - 3 pm, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

**Place:** Penticton Lakeside Resort, Penticton, BC

*Wordcloud on title page produced January 3, 2019 by G. Lucas using MS Word and Pro Word Cloud, content from the second report of the federal government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth*  
<https://www.budget.gc.ca/aceg-ccce/home-accueil-en.html>

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## AGENDA

<b>TUESDAY, February 12, 2019</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
	<b>Business session</b>
1:00 pm	Opening - Welcome from Penticton City Council Credentials, agenda, meeting guidelines, election procedure, minutes
1:15 pm	Board of Directors Report - Pinder Dhaliwal, BCFGAs President
1:45 pm	Financial Statements, Budget and General Manager's Report
2:15 pm	Financial Programs, AgriStability
2:45 pm	Environment and Food Safety, Water Sustainability Act
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Replant - Carl Withler
3:45 pm	Crop Protection, Sterile Insect Release Program
4:30 pm	Member Services
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Adjourn to Wednesday</b>
<b>Reception</b>	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Social and Awards

<b>Wednesday, February 13, 2018</b>	
<b>Policy Session</b>	
8:00 am	Reconvene, Credentials
8:15 am	BCFGAs Companies - Summerland Varieties Corporation, BCFGAs R&D Orchard
8:30 am	Liberal Party Ag. Critic Ian Paton (TBC)
8:45 am	Labour, Beth Connery, Chair, CHC Labour Committee
10:00 am	Break <i>Deadline for late resolutions and to register for voting is 11:00 am</i>
10:30 am	BC Agriculture Council (including CFA Update), Sukhpaul Bal, Director and Danielle Synotte, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
11:00 am	Premier John Horgan (TBC) Hon. Lana Popham, BC Minister of Agriculture (TBC)
11:15 am	Public Trust Initiative, Becky Parker, Manager of Community Trust
11:45 am	Welcome: Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay
Noon	Luncheon - soup and sandwich
1:00 pm	Resolutions
1:30	Elections: Procedure, Candidate presentations, Balloting
	Deferred and Late Resolutions.
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks. Adjourn.</b>

updated agenda and committee reports will be available at [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com) after February 1, 2019

Report to the 2019 BCFGGA Convention  
from the  
**Board of Directors**

The role of BCFGGA remains just as important today, as it was 129 years ago: To serve as the primary public policy advocate for fresh fruit growers of British Columbia. Each day, our industry is bombarded with challenges from the local, provincial and the federal government; from regulatory agencies, to a misinformed citizens, to self interest groups whose actions affect negatively of agriculture community.

As we know, the start of the year was not without its challenges. While we view having a reliable source of labour as being critical to the success of our farms. Many growers who employed foreign farm workers experienced delays due to Integrity reviews and Audits which put the entire LMIA process on hold... numbering roughly 70 files and hundreds of workers. More than ever BCFGGA increased its communication efforts with all government involved with this program to highlight issues and the importance of timely labour. As we all know...Mother Nature does not stop. BCFGGA organized a meeting with Integrity Division here in Kelowna where growers shared their frustration with government process and lack of understanding of agricultural operations. BCFGGA along with grower members were also able to get message to numerous federal Ministers locally and in Ottawa on multiple occasions to address the labour concerns.

BCFGGA is involved in many ways in dealing with labour issues. Participation in regional meeting, with committees and being part of the national organizations such as BCAC, WALL, CFA and CHC. Our involvement and engagement further strengthens the programs needed by our growers.

For over sixty years the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), has helped the agriculture industry get their product onto the kitchen table when it cannot find reliable Canadian workforce. It is a program with history and worldwide recognition of its effectiveness and benefits to all involved in the temporary foreign worker programs. That is why it is imperative to lead and continue building support of the SAWP program and making sure the government actions don't disrupt the supply of labour we need to grow and harvest our crops.

We always get a question from politicians in some form or another on "what the BCFGGA does to hire or help local and interested Canadians who want jobs in tree fruit industry." BCFGGA continues to support the local workforce and the many youth that travel from Quebec and Ontario to work in our agriculture fields. We operate the Labour Orientation and Safety Training Program (LOST) and we have had positive feedback from growers and the workers. Ron Forrest will continue and extend his reach out to other areas to encourage and bring awareness to the labour community. Besides increasing youth from Quebec and eastern provinces the LOST program will look to increase awareness of the International Mobility Program in many counties including Mexico.

The past year also saw increase in the minimum wage and its effects on our industry. Operating costs of family-farming operations, will continue to increase due to regulatory burdens and government-mandated increases. The minimum wage increase on June 1st, 2019 to \$13.85/hour...for the farmer... the challenge of remaining economically viable in the quest to continue producing the highest quality fruit has become even more difficult, especially when mandated minimum wage increase causes each category of wages to grow incrementally higher. Overall creating a dramatic increase in all agriculture inputs without the ability to pass on these cost due to the nature of agriculture economics.

We operate in the global field and it's not a level playing ground to begin with and such dramatic changes are like earthquakes.

Another very important labour issue is piece rates. The piece rate has also been adjusted for 2019 season as it was announced back in April 2018. BCFGa and BCAC along with others impacted are vigorously defending piece rates as the government considers making changes. We have briefed the Agriculture Minister and the Labour Minister and have worked to get the appointed consultant the real information on piece rates. The consultant will be reporting to the Minister of Labour by the end of January. We continue our message that we are at a tipping point whereby a majority of our domestic food supply that is grown in British Columbia is at real risk with these wage increases. Furthermore piece rates are important in our sector and function so efficiently that vast majority of travelling pickers make 'professional wages.' We continue to alert our elected officials about the impacts of their actions and hope they get an understanding before it is too late.

The sheer number of issues facing labour seems to be growing exponentially. Be it in housing regulations, The Primary Agriculture Review report due 2019, the \$3.2 million Migrant Worker Support Network -BC Pilot Project, the Trusted Employer Concept, the Payroll Health Tax, Biometrics, LMIA process,.....So while there are victories to be obtained, the amount of challenges continues to grow. BCFGa remains committed to addressing these concerns. As location is important to real estate... in farming ..... labour, labour, labour .....remains one of the most important file.

The second big issue for the year was the low apple returns for the 2017 crop, mainly due to weather impacting size and quality as you know. The minister of agriculture recognized a problem was emerging and enhanced the AgriStability program and budget. Growers and the BCFGa know that AgriStability has the following issues: the program averages all of crop income and expenses, which make it less likely that a mixed farm will get a program payment, compared to a farm that produces only one commodity. Another issue is structural change for tree fruits as we plant our orchards. The program seems not to recognize the future ability to generate income and margins. Over the years the benefit of risk programs, such as AgriStability have been reduced just when our industry needs them the most going from 15% trigger support to the current 30%. We have shared these concerns with the Minister of Agriculture and continue to communicate with our local risk management office staff.

The Replant program continues to improve the productivity and transform the Okanagan/Similkameen Valley into a world class fruit growing region. The program is a seven year Replant program currently ending in 2021. During the year BCFGa presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Budget 2019 Consultation and highlighted its history, the economic impacts, and the importance of having a long term (7-8 year) replant program because of the farm business planning in terms of obtaining nursery trees, poles, wires and financial managing. The replant program provides approximately 20-25% of the roughly \$30,000 needed to replant an acre of apples and lending institutions are more likely to fund orchard improvements with strong supported timelines. One change that occurred was further simplification of the application form so that growers spend less time on paperwork where possible. As of this writing the replant deadline was extended to January 31, 2019 giving growers opportunity to apply because many were still harvesting during this year's replant deadline. With this in mind, future deadlines has been set for November 30.

The province provided our sector with a \$5 million Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund which will encourage industry to take bold steps and plan for Infrastructure Investments, Research and develop strategic Marketing of the tree fruit products. This investment will not only lead to growth and stability in our sector, both preserving and creating jobs and ensure that we continue to produce fresh, healthy, safe BC grown tree fruits.

With \$5 million in total, \$3.5 million allocated towards Research, Marketing, and Infrastructure and remaining for the Replant program to cover for over prescribed years. Applications intake is now open and will come in through two intake times during the early part of the 2019 New Year.

We now find ourselves in the third year of a continuing drought like conditions over the summer months where the expectations for 100 degree temperatures are a daily expectation. Some might even argue it's been longer than three years. In the short term growers continue to show their resiliency by producing consistently good quantities and excellent quality tree fruit. However, as we expand the horizon to look out at 5, 10 or even 15 years we can see that we need to value our domestic water supply, and keep our finger on the pulse.....the pulse of the Columbia River Treaty.

Any change or reduction due to the lack of availability of the essential resources of water as it relates to the implementation of the new CRT is very important to our industry if not BC as a whole. We know it will probably take many more years to negotiate the next version, but the importance of water as it will be the new 'gold' can't be underrated. BCFGGA continues to monitor and keep this file updated because we understand that it takes water to grow the food that keeps our desert valley green and gives British Columbians and the world the best fruit we have to offer.

As if weather and water was not enough. We currently face crop protection tools that might be taken away when it comes down to pest management. There are chemistries that might get phased out over the coming years which are very important to the tree fruit industry. Such products as group M being Dithane, Polygram, Ferbam and other such as Rovral, Quintec, and Admire. This is very concerning especially when new pest such as the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Apple Clearwing Moth, Spotted Wing Drosophila and older enemies of tree fruit have ability to gain ground. BCFGGA works actively with all organization from SIR, CFIA, Summerland Research Stations, Scientist, and CHC to continue to ensure crop protection and disease knowledge and concerns are highlighted. BCFGGA also continues to help develop and enhance the BC Tree Fruit Production Guide and incorporate BC DAS. This exciting expansion into a new technology was made possible through the cooperation of Government, the Canadian fruit growing industry in the Okanagan Valley and local project partners including the BCFGGA.

Just when we thought the phone might stop ringing.....the ALR announcement.....

During the year the BCFGGA provided a brief to the Minister of Agriculture Reviews Committee on the ALR review. In November, the current government made three changes under Bill 52. BCFGGA did discuss Bill 52 and the three areas highlighted in the Bill. Of concern was the condition of limiting house size on ALR land. We support the increased penalties for dumping of construction waste onto agriculture land and the merging of two zones into one zone. The third change in the legislation is to reduce size of residence on agriculture to approximately 5400 square feet for all parcel in ALR. We support the restriction on megahouses built by non-farmers on ALR land, as this takes entire parcels of land out of production. However, our position is that there should not be restrictions on the house size for those engaged in true agricultural activity. The recent approach to limit house size applies the same restriction to bonafide farmers as it does to non-farming developers. To this, BCFGGA urged that the legislation should reconsider their approach and not punish farming families.

The BCFGA has communicated our concern to government and several board members did participate on radio media to express the concerns of the farming community. We continue to work towards discussion on this matter.

There are many issues impacting BC tree fruit agriculture in its sustainability. From labour, risk management programs, water, invasive species, food safety, energy costs, environment regulations, NAFTA; all important in their own time. While process related to public policy issues and changes can be frustrating, the BCFGA contributes to substantive progress in many areas and communicates the importance of the tree fruit sector to the Valley, British Columbia and this country, Canada. I can tell you, that the members of the Association and that the BCFGA is viewed as being reliable and respected, effective and efficient, dynamic and determined. Each of you should be proud of our organization and equally proud of the exceptional staff that helps to shape it. It is your support and involvement that makes our Association successful. I extend my thanks to all members, our Board and staff. Your time and dedication to the effectiveness of our Association is greatly appreciated. To our Association Staff: Glen, Bunvir, Brenda, Sheila, thank you for your daily contributions to the tree fruit sector.

Respectfully submitted,

Pinder Singh Dhaliwal  
President

BCFGA Board of Directors

Peter Simonsen, Vice President

Ravinder Bains

Sukhdeep Brar

David Machial

Sukhdev Goraya

David Dobernigg

Karmjit Gill

Report to the 2019 BCFGa Convention  
from the  
**BCFGa General Manager**

The Year of Labour

As noted by President Dhaliwal, the year 2019 started with an overwhelming amount of labour activity for the BCFGa. Service Canada specialized SAWP processing (and now Ag Stream processing) have really upped their game, and turnaround on applications (Labour Market Impact Assessments) is excellent at present. The biometrics requirement for Mexico SAWP has been improved as much as possible though the effort of Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) personnel. Many people have worked hard on improving biometrics - let us hope that it is enough change to ease the biometrics implementation for 2019 and 2020.

Uncertainties in labour going forward include:

- The Primary Agriculture Review (Service Canada).
- The Migrant Worker Support Network pilot project (Integrity Services Branch, Service Canada).
- Implementation of the Temporary Foreign Worker [recruiter and employer] Registry (Provincial Ministry of Labour).
- Workcamp Regulation review (Provincial Ministry of Health).
- Piece Rate review (Provincial Ministry of Labour).
- Employment Standards review (Provincial Ministry of Labour).
- Pesticide regulation review (WorksafeBC)..

These initiatives involve more than the BCFGa, and it is important to recognize the contribution of BC Agriculture Council and other agriculture organizations that are engaged in these issues.

The Canadian Horticultural Council is also a key player in Labour. In order to get the public more aware of and positively engaged in the importance of foreign workers to Canadian farms, the CHC is preparing a half hour video on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program - Ag Stream. Some of you may also have seen CHC's shorter videos on social media. By giving the public the real story, unvarnished, of the SAWP and TFW-Ag Stream Program, CHC is counteracting the inflammatory comments and approach of radical labour activists. Hopefully a commonsense approach will win the day.

Special Initiatives and Programs

The year has again been very busy with programs:

- BCFGa cooperated with Summerland Varieties Corporation in the delivery of a new 5 year term for a large research program. SVC takes the lead in delivering the individual research projects, and BCFGa is involved in overall project coordination.
- Replant administration was simplified and turnaround times on inspections was much improved over the prior year. The application process for 2019 Replant was simplified, and the province agreed to extend the application deadline due to the late season. In future, the Replant Program application deadline will be firm at November 30. We are continuing to seek improvements to Replant Program turnaround time for the processing of payments.
- The third year of the three year Apple Clearwing Moth project was completed. The analysis on project results will be completed in 2019.
- BCFGa launched the Competitiveness Fund.
- We modernized our accounting system to a cloud-based system.

- The new “Canadian Agricultural Partnership” or CAP, is replacing Growing Forward 2 on April 1, 2018. CAP programs are similar to predecessors, but there are some important changes. A listing of projects is being prepared for members.

Other items are part of our regular work, and also require a significant effort:

- For governance, this is the first year that one-half of the Board is elected, rather than the whole Board of Directors. We updated our election procedure accordingly.
- BCFGA Labour Specialist Bunvir Nijjer achieved the Registered Canadian Immigration Consultant designation and can now be an official third party agent to communicate with Service Canada on behalf of growers. Bunvir noted an increase in the number of growers using BCFGA services to help apply for the 2019 SAWP program. BCFGA staff Glen Lucas continues to act as the Assistant General Manager of the Western Agriculture Labour Initiative. WALI interacts with the Foreign Government representatives and Service Canada to establish contracts.
- Communications through our Friday File continued and the newsletter is mainly delivered via email. About 3 of 21 newsletters were mailed, the rest by email. If a member is not on email, you are missing 85% of the valuable information provided in the Friday File. We hope to complete a ‘information technology readiness’ survey in the coming year to help BCFGA when implement an email-only communication policy.
- This is the eighteenth year that the Convention Portfolio has been delivered to all BCFGA members. The usual reports will be available online at [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com) in the week or two prior to the convention on February 12-13, 2019. The reports will be available in printed form at the Annual Convention.

Some activities are important to continue if BCFGA is to maintain its presence and to support growers needs:

- We have continued our usual annual presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the provincial budget review committee). The committee recommended the extension of the Replant Program another 4 years.
- We scaled back our public event participation and only attended the Summerland Apple Fall Farm Festival.

### **BCFGA Staff**

The staff of the BCFGA are very much in support of growers and the tree fruit industry. Brenda Jorde, Member Services Coordinator, is busy with the 2019 program applications. Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary works 25% for BCFGA and 75% for Summerland Varieties Corporation. Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, has retired from the Summerland Varieties Corporation, and will remain part-time on BCFGA accounting. Ron Forrest is employed seasonally and is responsible for the summer labour project and helped out at the Interior Provincial Exhibition. He is starting earlier in 2019 to help promote the availability of jobs to backpackers on the International Experience Program and also through Quebec colleges.

BCFGA makes use of contractors as well. Mike Read, Sera Lean, and Nicole Verpaelst are contract Replant Program inspectors. They are dedicated to doing a thorough and accurate job, and their work is essential to the Replant Program’s success. Also during the year, we employ student research assistants on various industry research projects, with salaries fully recovered from the project funding. As you can see, we engage many people in our operations to bring value to our members. The contributions of all of our staff and contractors is truly appreciated.

### **Support for Other Organizations**

The BCFGA continues to provide administrative support for the BCAC Interior Horticulture Sector. We cooperate and partner with a number of industry organizations, in particular the CHC and BCAC Labour Committees and the Western Agriculture Labour Initiative, the BC Cherry Association, the BC Grape Growers’ Association, and Summerland Varieties Corporation. The BC Tree Fruit Cooperative

continues to be a key supporter of BCFGAs activities, as this is the twelfth year that all co-op members will be BCFGAs members. This support helps to strengthen the BCFGAs and allows us to focus on providing value to members.

### **Services and Programs**

Programs are delivered by the BCFGAs are:

- BC Tree Fruit Replant.
- Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund (in collaboration with Investment Agriculture Foundation)
- Pesticide-Applicators Recertification Program.
- Pesticide Handlers Certification Program.
- Tree Fruit Production Guide spray schedules and TFGP online ([www.bctfpg.com](http://www.bctfpg.com)).
- Assistance in completing Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program applications.
- BCFGAs Farm Labour Orientation and Safety Program.
- Export Inspection Coordination.

### **Financial**

The financial picture for the association was much more positive for 2018. As a non-profit, the BCFGAs aims to have no loss and no surplus, and this year we achieved that aim by coming as close to 'zero' net revenue as possible. Improvements in financial results were possible as the province agreed to change the Replant Program administration fee to adequately cover BCFGAs Replant administration expenses. Both BCFGAs companies help the BCFGAs by:

- taking on projects normally done at BCFGAs (i.e. for 2018, the BCFGAs R&D Orchard Ltd. conducted labour, Apple Clearwing Moth and other projects).
- SVC dividends help BCFGAs to take on more projects..
- Sharing some of our staff (SVC shares staff, and R&D Orchard contributes with overhead).
- Making direct contributions to advertising at BCFGAs events - thank you to SVC.

We plan to shift projects that normally run through BCFGAs R&D Orchard Ltd. through BCFGAs going forward.

After a tough year of apple returns, and facing new challenges in cherry production, the newly updated Industry Strategy will help guide BCFGAs and the industry to success. The staff, management and board of BCFGAs are eager to make progress and work on projects that will help the industry innovate and move forward.

At your service,  
Glen Lucas  
General Manager

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## **2019 Resolutions**

### **I. Complimentary**

#### **1. Appreciation** Board

Be It Resolved 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; 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**

Board

Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs 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. To adjust Replant program for inflation and reflect increased costs**

North

Whereas the cost of replanting has increased due to increased tree cost, increased labour costs, and increased irrigation and post and wire costs, the cost of water, as well as inflationary increases in cost of other inputs in general, and

Whereas the provincial Minister of Agriculture mandate letter specifies that the Minister “Establish Grow B.C. to help young farmers access land, and support fruit and nut growers and processors to expand local food production.”

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

### **4. Extend Replant Program**

South

Whereas the replant program has been very helpful in the past and we have asked for a long term program, and

Whereas the Premier and the Agricultural Minister of BC announced on November 21st, 2014 that the provincial government has committed to a seven-year replant program,

Whereas there are only three years remaining for this replant program,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGAs seek funding to extend the successful long term replant program.

### **5. That variety-specific and area-specific risks not be averaged in Production insurance**

North and South

Whereas it is a principle of insurance to determine a risk-class that is separate and distinct for the items being insured, and

Whereas certain types and commodities of horticultural products are in separate risk-classes but currently merged into a larger risk class (e.g. tree coverage for apples and peaches), and

Whereas this results in the risks of the subclasses being averaged and reducing claims, and

Whereas there is a valid rationale for not merging the subclasses that have previously been accepted by Crop Insurance (e.g. late and early season cherries),

Therefore Be It Resolved that Production Insurance be variety-specific and that area-specific risks not be averaged in the insurance.

### **6. To raise the margin coverage in AgriStability from 70% to 85%**

Board

Whereas AgriStability program payments were originally triggered by a 15% decline in program margin which provided adequate coverage for risk of revenue decline, and

Whereas the AgriStability program's coverage level for risk was arbitrarily reduced in Growing Forward 2 when the trigger for program payments was changed to a 30% decline in margin,

Whereas participation in AgriStability has declined since the Growing Forward 2 reduction in coverage level, and

Whereas the recent change to the program to allow 'retroactive' enrollment hides the deficiency exhibited through lack of on-time enrollment and does not address the root problem of inadequate program coverage, Therefore Be It Resolved that the AgriStability margin coverage be reset to trigger at a 15% margin decline.

### **III. Trade, Taxes and Regulations**

#### **7. Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Produce**

North

Whereas 91% of consumers want mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods (Consumer Association of Canada, 2003), and

Whereas GMOs are not accepted in some public and production system philosophies, especially the organic sector, and

Whereas there is confusion about whether fruit and vegetable produce has been developed using advanced scientific techniques that genetically modify the product, and

Whereas there could be reduced demand and economic harm to non-Genetically Modified products due to the confusion in the public,

Whereas U.S. food companies must label products containing genetically engineered ingredients by 2022,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CHC request the federal government to amend the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations to include mandatory labeling of all Genetically Modified fruits and vegetables sold in Canada.

#### **8. That farmers be exempt from PST**

North

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PST system provide input tax credits on all farm input purchases, and

Further Be It Resolved that the rebate system be administered by government.

#### **9. On-Farm Food Safety Resolution**

South

Whereas the CanadaGAP food safety program is based on scientific food safety research and practical knowledge of farm practices, and

Whereas some impractical requirements can creep into programs such as food safety, and

Whereas CanadaGAP for horticulture is under the purview of CanAgPlus, an independently managed corporation,

Therefore Be It Resolved that CHC as a shareholder request the Board of Directors of CanAgPlus to consider the following policies to return the food safety program to a practical level:

1. For every rule introduced, one rule must be eliminated;
2. A risk assessment be performed on every new rule;
3. That a risk assessment be performed on 10% of existing rules every year; and
4. That any food safety rules without a demonstrable, realistic risk to food safety be eliminated.

### **IV. Crop Protection**

#### **10. Improve Product Review at Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)**

North

Whereas PMRA is overwhelmed with the number and type of product reviews, and

Whereas errors could occur in product reviews due to the limited capacity of PMRA, and

Whereas growers are being left without options due to withdrawal of products after a review, and

Whereas the number of reviews will continue to increase with no additional funding for reviews,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the federal government reduce the number of reviews, and

Further Be It Resolved that reviews be prioritized according to the availability of alternative products, availability of PPE and use patterns in determining reviews.

## **11. Consider Pesticide Resistance in PMRA reviews**

Board

Whereas it is a best management practice to rotate chemical groups throughout the year in a spray program to reduce resistance buildup in the targeted disease or pest,

Therefore Be It Resolved that, in the re-evaluation of existing registered crop protection products, the PMRA consider pest resistance to the remaining registered crop protection products prior to making its decision.

## **12. Deer control programs**

North

Whereas deer fencing is expensive and only relocates the wildlife problem, and

Whereas without controlling the population of urban deer, fencing is one of the only protections currently available for deer damage to orchards, and

Whereas the problems associated with urban deer are increasing, including damage to orchards, damage to vehicles due to collisions with deer, and the suffering of injured and dying animals as a result of these collisions, and

Whereas the excessive rural and urban deer population is a responsibility of the government,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the provincial government implement other deer control practices (such as a new limited entry hunting program) to manage the problem rural and urban deer population.

## **13. Transportation Corridor Fencing for Deer**

North

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGa request ICBC to provide transportation corridor or interface deer fencing in order to decrease motor vehicle incidents caused by rural and urban deer population.

## **14. Establish a Deer Fencing Program**

South

Whereas damage caused by deer foraging and eating the new growth and tree branches in replanted orchards is devastating to the orchard operation, and

Whereas deer fencing programs helped growers to protect orchards from deer damage but are no longer funded, and

Whereas it may not be practical to hunt deer in orchard areas due to gun discharge by-laws, and

Whereas deer are not staying in rangeland and forested areas and deer are becoming habituated to settled areas,

Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGa make a priority of advocating for the re-introduction of deer fencing as a Beneficial Management Practice eligible for EFP funding.

## **15. Support for Starling Control Program**

South

Whereas Starlings are an invasive species that harm native bird populations, spread livestock disease, and consume economic quantities of feed and damage fruit through feeding, rendering it unfit for consumption, and

Whereas the Starling Control Program originated about 15 years ago for the purpose of reducing the Starling population in the Okanagan, and

Whereas there is recent research on starling movements that could further improve the effectiveness of the Starling Control Program,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGa continue to support the Starling Control Program.

## **16. Support for the Sterile Insect Release Program**

South

Whereas the Sterile Insect Release Program has proven to be an effective Area Wide Pest Control Program, Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGa continue to support an efficient and effective Sterile Insect Release (SIR) Program.

## **17. To expand the mandate of the SIR program in cooperation with growers**

South

Whereas the SIR program has developed expertise and infrastructure for monitoring, clean-up of host trees, and control measures (i.e. sterile insect release and pheromone distribution), and

Whereas these services could lead to an economic improvement in control costs and damage caused by pests other than Codling Moth, and

Whereas the use of SIR to apply area-wide IPM to other pests could realize significant economy of scope by making better use of SIR infrastructure and expertise,

Whereas there are other pests that could be controlled by SIR such as Apple Maggot, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGa recognize and encourage the efforts of the SIR program to expand its scope to include necessary area-wide monitoring, control and enforcement practices of other insect pests, and

Further Be It Resolved that the SIR Board develop a policy on how to obtain grower support and cooperation when considering additional pests to the program.

## **V. Water and Environment**

### **18. Environmental Farm Planning - Increase Funding Caps**

North

Whereas the EFP program should pay a higher percentage of project cost for environmental projects which do not provide a financial benefit (such as rebuilding a pesticide storage shed), and

Whereas the EFP program funding has been reduced, with a resultant reduction in the types of eligible projects for orchards and vineyards, and

Whereas the EFP program encourages projects that create positive environmental benefits, and

Whereas the EFP program is thought of positively and creates a cooperative atmosphere for climate change and environmental improvements, and

Whereas the alternative for government to the EFP Program is regulation and compliance activity, which come at a greater cost and increase the resistance of industry to making improvements,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCAC lobby to increase the funding caps for EFP Beneficial Management Practices.

### **19. EFP Funding for Soil Moisture Sensors and Irrigation Systems**

North

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCAC lobby to restore funding to expand the list of projects to include items such as soil moisture sensors, and for upgrading to efficient irrigation systems.

### **20. Province to Put Controls on the Cost of Irrigation Water**

North

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 cap the cost of agricultural water and ease the regulation of turn off and turn on dates.

**21. Adequate, Affordable Water**

Board

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGAs work with water purveyors to ensure there is adequate, affordable quality water at appropriate times for agriculture.

**22. Wood Chipping Program**

Board

Whereas there are new provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations (OBSCR), and

Whereas regional governments provide a service to grind trees and stumps from removed orchards, and

Whereas this service reduces burning of wood waste resulting in improved air quality, and

Whereas the funding for the service is limited and not all chipping can be done as requested,

Therefore be it resolved that there be provincial government funding to fully service the chipping of all orchard wood waste, related to the OBSCR regulation.

**VI. Labour**

**23. Settlement of Refugees to Fill Agricultural Jobs**

North

Whereas the Canadian government has increased the number of refugees accepted to Canada per year, and

Whereas a significant number of government sponsored refugees are located in urban areas, and

Whereas agriculture jobs offer a pathway into the workforce,

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

Therefore be it resolved that the federal government increase the settlement of refugees to areas where there are agriculture jobs available.

**24. Halt Further Increases to Minimum Wage for Agriculture**

North

Whereas the provincial government adopted nearly all the recommendations of the Fair Wage Commission and announced a timeline of increases to the minimum wage, and

Whereas the impact of minimum wage increases impacts industries differently, with the highest impact being industries with a greater amount of low-skill positions and industries that are competing with areas that provide greater support to their sectors and industries that are price takers due to retailer consolidation, and

Whereas agriculture is vulnerable on all three dimensions:

- a high proportion of operating cost is labour expense,
- other countries and provinces provide higher levels of support to their agriculture sectors, and
- there is great concentration in the retail sector of Canada, so that growers are price-takers,

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.

**25. To approve more TFW-Ag Stream applications for workers from certain countries**

North

Whereas agriculture requires a percentage of the workforce to work year-round, and

Whereas there are few Canadians and Permanent Residents to fill these year-round positions, and

Whereas the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFW) Agricultural Stream for certain countries such as India may be approved but the Work Permits not issued,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the issuance of TFW Ag Stream work permits for workers from certain countries be increased.

## **26. Increase SAWP Housing Deductions**

Board

Whereas minimum wage is increasing and placing financial pressure on growers, and

Whereas labour costs are estimated to be 50-70% of the cost of producing tree fruit, and

Whereas other SAWP employment costs paid by growers such as airfare, housing, and statutory deductions are increasing, and

Whereas the SAWP program allows deduction of accommodations to a maximum of \$826 per worker per year and this rate has not changed for 4 years,

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCAC request an increase of allowable deductions for housing that reflects the rate of increase in the minimum wage over the past four years.

## **27. Introduce Agricultural Education Programs**

Board

Whereas BC Agricultural GDP continues to increase about 2% per annum and

Whereas Agriculture is a significant economic driver and employer in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, and

Whereas a Viticulture Certificate program is the only agriculture education program in the Okanagan but tree fruit horticulture programs are not available,

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCFGA work with education institutions and the provincial government to develop agricultural education programs with courses appropriate for the tree fruit sector in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys.

## **28. Allow International Experience Program Work Permits to be Issued in Canada after Arrival**

South

Whereas many youth on holiday who travel from other countries to Canada are willing to work on farms, and

Whereas other countries enable travellers to apply for work permits after arrival, and

Whereas Canada only allows travellers to apply for work permits prior to arrival,

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

## **29. International Experience Program - to increase numbers of participants and add countries participating**

South

Whereas the International Experience Canada program allows youth the opportunity to travel and work in Canada through work visas in the category of Working Holiday, Young Professionals, and International Co-op Internship, and

Whereas individuals with Working Holiday work permits often choose to work in agriculture,

Whereas the schedule of dates to apply and deadline to apply for the IEC program is not publicized well in advance which makes it difficult for planning,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Federal Government increase the number of Working Holiday visas issued and that the number of eligible countries be expanded.

## **VII. Research**

### **29b. Apple Clearwing Moth - Solutions**

Board

Whereas Apple Clearwing Moth (ACM) is an invasive pest of apple trees endemic to Europe, and

Whereas ACM detected in the Similkameen valley in 2005 and over the next few years its populations increased significantly with most growers in the Okanagan-Similkameen reporting some damage and some areas with very high and even extreme population levels, and

Whereas the infestations of ACM result in reduced tree vigour, and sometimes tree death and removal of infested orchards, and

Whereas degree day models for the pest have been developed and a 3 year pilot project using pheromones mating disruption is due to be completed in 2018-2019., and

Whereas there is currently a lack of new research on this serious pest of apple trees,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGALobby for long-term funding for research to find environmental ways to combat Apple Clearwing Moth.

**30. To explore how SIR can rapidly detect and react to Codling Moth hotspots.**

South

Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGALobby request that a research study be conducted to explore how SIR can rapidly detect and react to Codling Moth "hotspots."

**31. Research Codling Moth Trap Effectiveness**

North

Whereas Sterile Insect Release monitors traps for wild codling moths weekly in orchards throughout the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, and

Whereas growers are advised not to spray until their traps have wild moths for consecutive weeks, and

Whereas in 2018 many growers had no wild codling moths in their orchard traps but found significant codling moth damage,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the effectiveness of codling moth traps be studied.

**VIII. Industry Development**

**32. Federal Bare Land Planting Program**

South

Whereas there is underutilized farmland in the Okanagan-Similkameen, and

Whereas there are untapped export markets for Canadian apples and cherries, and

Whereas bringing new land into production will create economic value,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGALobby seek funding for a national 'bare land' planting program through a no-interest loan for the first five years.

**33. To Explore marketing benefits of the Sterile Insect Release Program**

South

Whereas the SIR Program reduces the environmental impact of farming by reducing pesticide use through the use of Sterile Insect Technology, and

Whereas demand for local production of apples and pears could be enhanced by raising awareness of this environmental program,

Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGALobby explore the promotional benefit of the SIR program and promote the environmental friendliness of the industry.

**34. Cooperative Governance Structure**

North

Whereas the Minister of Agriculture announced \$5 million for a new Tree Fruit Industry Competitiveness Fund at the 2018 BCFGALobby AGM, and

Whereas an independent study of the priorities of the fund identified that the "cooperative model should be assessed, [with] options identified to modernize the cooperative governance/ownership model, and changes implemented to restore stability and growth."

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGALobby encourage BCTFC to submit a proposal to the Competitiveness fund to look at governance and structure.

**BC Fruit Growers' Association  
Delegates and Alternate Delegates 2019**

**North**

Delegates

Tarsem Goraya  
Jeet Dukhia  
Amarjit Lalli  
Madeleine van Roechoudt \*  
Joginder Dhand  
Mike Mitchell  
Penny Gambell  
Surjit Nagra

\* North District Council Chair

**South**

Delegates

Mohinder Dhaliwal  
Emerson Khosa  
Ranbir Kambo  
Doug Neild  
Charanjit Ghuman  
Allan Patton \*\*  
Mehtar Khaira

\*\* South District Council Chair

Alternates

Balwinder Khun Khun  
David Dobernigg  
Paramjit Patara  
Tahir Raza  
Jadvinder Nijjer

Alternates

Baljit Gill  
Parm Dhaliwal  
Denise MacDonald  
Balwinder Sidhu

**2019 BCFGGA Board of Directors nominations** - one-half elected each year, starting in 2019. For odd-numbered years, Vice-President, 2 North and 1 South Directors are elected. Nominations were made at the November 2018 BCFGGA Regional meetings.

	<b>2018 Board</b>	<b>2019 Nominations (region)</b>
<b>President</b>	Pinder Dhaliwal	[2020 election]
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter Simonsen**	Peter Simonsen (North) Peter Simonsen (South)
<b>North Directors*</b>	David Dobernigg** Sukhdev Goraya**  Karm Gill ***	David Dobernigg Sukhdev Goraya  [2020 election]
<b>South Directors*</b>	Ravinder Bains**  David Machial *** Deep Brar ***	Ravinder Bains  [2020 election] [2020 election]
* Nominated and elected by members in their respective regions.	** These director positions are up for election in 2019	*** These director positions are not up for election until 2020.

## Business Associate Members

The BCFGA expresses its thanks to the following Business Associate Members in 2018 for their support of the BCFGA.

- ★ **BC Tree Fruit Co-operative** (relationship agreement)
- ★ **Summerland Varieties Corporation** (relationship agreement)
- ★ **BDO Canada LLP** (relationship agreement)
  
- ★ **Thermomass** 7288, 195A Street, Surrey, BC
- ★ **Actagro LLC** Box 31523, Pitt Meadows, BC
- ★ **Fairview Orchards Ltd** 816 Road 5, Oliver, BC
- ★ **Cawston Cold Storage** 2058 Main Street, Cawston BC
- ★ **Fernandes Farm Ltd** 3719, 62 Ave, Osoyoos, BC
- ★ **BMO - Lynn Lashuk** 294 Bernard Ave, 2nd floor, Kelowna BC
- ★ **Consolidated Fruit Packers Ltd.** Suite 1004, 1708 Dolphin Ave, Kelowna
- ★ **Pro Ag Canada** 1, 6285, 205 St, Langley, BC
- ★ **Vert Nature Inc** 147 St. Paul, Sherrington, Quebec

## Subscriptions provided with BCFGA Membership

- Orchard and Vine Magazine
- The Grower Newspaper
- Country Life in BC Newspaper
- The BCFGA Friday File

## BCFGA Services

### Need Local Labour?

BCFGA Labour Orientation and Safety Program operates from June to October each year. Contact Ron Forrest 778-363-3620.

### Need to apply for workers from the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program?

Contact Bunvir Nijjer at the BCFGA office, 250-762-5226, extension 4.

### Need a Farmer Identity Card at a discounted rate?

Apply online at [www.bcac.ca/farmeridcard](http://www.bcac.ca/farmeridcard), use the discounted BCAC member rate.

### Need to know if your Pesticide Applicators Certificate is up for renewal and whether you have enough PAC points to renew?

Contact Brenda Jorde at the BCFGA office, 250-762-5226, extension 1.

### Need to let a neighbour know the benefits of joining BCFGA?

[www.bcfga.com/185/Why+Become+a+BCFGA+Member](http://www.bcfga.com/185/Why+Become+a+BCFGA+Member)

### And how to join?

<http://www.bcfga.com/186/How+to+join>

### Feeling a need to become more involved and join a BCFGA Committees and Organizations?

Register your interest and find out more by calling a director or Glen Lucas at 250-762-5226 extension 2.

# *Appreciation for the Annual Convention Sponsor*



Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC) is a variety rights management company that licenses new varieties of tree fruits and berries domestically and internationally.

SVC represents both government and private plant breeders. On behalf of variety owners, SVC grants rights to growers and other third parties to propagate new varieties and produce and sell the fruit of such varieties. In return, the licensees pay licensing fees and royalties to SVC which SVC administers on behalf of the owners.

With its share of the royalties, SVC supports

- the basic business of plant breeder rights, but also supports research projects on tree fruits.
- the promotion of new varieties and club varieties to Canadian growers.
- the BC Fruit Growers' Association by providing dividends when needed and affordable.
- SVC works in partnership with many industry organizations in Canada, sponsoring several horticultural meetings.

SVC operates a demonstration and testing orchard located in Oliver, BC. The orchard will test new varieties in early stages of development, and will test and demonstrate horticultural practices for select new varieties.

SVC also operates Canada's only virus free budwood tree fruit orchard at Summerland, which supplies plant propagation material to nurseries, orchardists and commercial growers worldwide.

[www.summerlandvarieties.com](http://www.summerlandvarieties.com)