

Resolutions Approved at the BC Fruit Growers' Association February 23-24, 2022 Annual Convention

Resolution 1 - Soil Health Program

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGA develop a Soil Health Program that leverages the soil testing in the EFP program and provides information and extension resources to improve soil organic matter and soil health on BC tree fruit farms.

Resolution 2 - Water security through water rights (FITFIR) and agriculture water reserve

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGA seek the commitment of the provincial government that

- The province has the final authority in any farm irrigation use,
- Water currently used by agriculture will remain with the agriculture industry, and
- Any reductions in water use in times of drought are calculated as a percentage of allocation, and

Further Be It Resolved That the province explore methods of regulating water use to achieve these goals.

Resolution 3 - Agriculture Irrigation Rate Oversight

Therefore Be It Resolved That Agricultural Irrigation Rate changes be subject to review by an independent commission such as the BC Utilities Commission in order to maintain an affordable and adequate supply of irrigation water.

Resolution 4 - SIR Transitional Funding

Therefore Be It Resolved That the federal and provincial governments provide transitional funding to SIR until a new viable and stable funding model is achieved.

Resolution 5 - Immigration for Agricultural Workers

[Tabled to the Labour Committee to consider by June 1, 2022]

Therefore Be It Resolved That essential agricultural workers be provided with a special immigration rating system that allows a new generation of agricultural workers and farmers to retain Canadian horticultural productivity.

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Resolution 6 - Immigration Rules - move from Federal to Provincial Control

[Defeated]

Resolution 7 - Farm Wage Subsidy

Therefore Be It Resolved That the provincial government be requested to provide a farm wage subsidy to assist with high and rising wage costs and to attract domestic workers.

Resolution 8 - No Clawback of Seasonal Farm Wages from Employment Insurance

Therefore Be It Resolved That farm employees have additional tax exemption on annual income beyond the TD1 exemption up to \$20,000.

Resolution 9 - Post-Arrival Work Visas for Agricultural Work

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Federal Government allow foreign tourists and students to apply for farm visas after arrival into Canada.

Resolution 10 - Provincial Investment in Centralized Agricultural Campsites

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGGA and BC Grapegrowers' Association request Provincial government support for worker amenities at worker campsites.

Resolution 11 - Pilot Project for Small Farms SAWP

Therefore Be It Resolved That the province and federal government reach agreement on a SAWP pilot project to be tested in the Okanagan, to allow for unrestricted transfers within an approved farm employer group composed of principle and secondary farm employers, with the farm employer group subject to appropriate rules and regulations to provide minimum earnings guarantees as per the current SAWP employment agreements.

Resolution 12 - Heat and Ash as Quality Perils in Production Insurance

Therefore Be It Resolved That damage from extreme heat and ash be added to the list of quality loss insurable perils.

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Resolution 13 - Quality Coverage Period for Production Insurance

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Production Insurance Branch consider a policy to establish quality coverage for any fruit damage that occurs after 2 weeks post-bloom.

Resolution 14 - Investigate Adequate Tree Supply from Fruit Tree Nurseries

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGa determine ways to improve access to fruit trees from nurseries.

Resolution 10 - Apple Marketing Commission

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGa work with NVDC to facilitate a discussion and communication on establishing an Apple Marketing Commission or any other proposal that will establish market discipline and orderly marketing by BC apple packers and wholesalers.

Resolution 16 - Retailer Code of Practice

Therefore Be It Resolved That CHC continue its work to establish a Food Retailer Code of Practice with enforceable rules.

Resolution 17 - Apple Export Market Access

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGa and NVDC continue to work on establishing national Apple Export Market priorities for consideration at the next Apple Working Group meeting in March 2022.

Resolution 18 - Simplify Food Safety Programs

Therefore Be It Resolved That CHC investigate/pursue a "trusted grower" program with CanAg Plus such that independent growers only need to complete a full audit every few years.

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Resolution 19 - Prohibit Retailer Manipulation of Food Safety Programs

Therefore Be It Resolved That the federal government include in a Food Retailer Code of Practice initiative, a prohibition in the addition of requirements to food safety programs through the unilateral decision of a food retailer, primarily through the use of addendums or changes to commonly accepted food safety programs, and

Further Be It Resolved That the food retailers submit for consideration any requested changes to the food safety program to the national standard program, CanadaGAP, thus avoiding unilateral decisions of the food retailers on food safety addendums.

Resolution 20 - Government Action on Input Cost Inflation

Therefore Be It Resolved That there be federal and provincial programs to offset the increased costs of regulations and general inflationary pressures on agricultural producers.

Resolution 21 - Government Funding when Introducing New Regulations and Rules

Therefore Be It resolved That the Government share the costs associated with introducing new rules.