

## Report to the 2022 BCFGGA Convention

From the

### **Board of Directors**

*As you know, I am stepping down as President this year. I feel it is time for new ideas at the Board of Directors - we need a different approach to be successful with the government in these trying times - for growers, for our industry partners, and for the government. We will welcome some new faces as Talwinder Bassi and myself retire from the Board, and I would like to welcome the future leadership of Annelise Simonsen and welcome back Mani Gill and Avi Gill. These younger growers will bring new ideas and energy to the Board. You will be electing a new President - let no one question the democracy or governance of the BCFGGA - we have 133 years of history of being the growers' parliament.*

*The tree fruit sector has faced many challenges in the past year:*

- 1. COVID-19
  - a. Limitations on worker housing and camping*
  - b. Reduced mobility of workers from their homes to our farms*
  - c. Less accessibility to normal communication channels*
  - d. Supply challenges**
- 2. The June 2021 Heat Dome with all time record temperatures*
- 3. Lack of progress and harmony with the Ministry of Agriculture*
- 4. Increasing input costs and weak apple prices and climate-impacted cherry production*
- 5. Increasing regulation of our businesses without regard to costs imposed on growers*

*Not all suffering was allocated to the tree fruit sector - our neighbours in the Fraser Valley suffered from the November 14, 2021 flooding, and we have been monitoring and supporting their recovery where possible.*

*For our sector, a downturn in apple prices and weather impacts on cherry crops have been brutal for growers. I sense that a shake-up of our marketing system is at hand. We need to stop doing what we are doing (i.e. failing), and start doing something different (i.e. succeeding). Government can support new directions for the sector, but there is not so much confidence that provincial Ministry of Agriculture will invest in our future with the resources required in the Tree Fruit Stabilization Report, but we remain hopeful and will press for progress.*

*In the past year, as I will report later in the meeting in more detail on our new Business Model, the BCFGGA has to some extent come to terms' with this new reality.*

*We opted out of Replant Administration when the Ministry of Agriculture did not respond to our reasonable requests for a continuation without change for the last 6 months of the 7 year program - enough was enough.*

*We withdrew from the administration of the Tree Fruit Industry Development Fund (frozen since December 2020, over 14 months ago) - it has now been 3 months since the Tree Fruit Stabilization Report recommended the Fund's reinstatement but there is no progress to date.*

*Our special relationship with BC Tree Fruits Cooperative is winding down, as we consider all packers and marketers as equals.*

*With the winds of change blowing, your Board took bold moves.*

- *We are now focused more on member benefits. We introduced the EFP Incentive and a 20% savings on consulting for worker housing consulting (Green Spark Consulting), and there is more to come.*
- *We are shifting to research and projects.*
- *We are leading on the issues of apple market access and soft fruit nursery tree supply. We see crop protection as a key future priority.*
- *Irrigation and environment are emerging as important challenges which need to be addressed.*
- *Labour continues to be a focus for the BCFGGA.*

*We cannot lose sight of the primary objective: to make tree fruit farming viable and sustainable. Fortunately, we have financial strength to carry on with the help of dividends from our test orchard and variety rights companies. We owe a debt of gratitude to the people who established these successful endeavors that will support BCFGGA for many years to come.*

*Where do we go from here? That will be up to a new Board of Directors, but if they asked for my advice, I would provide the following points:*

- *Be kind and courteous and look within the industry for solutions.*
- *Stand strong for your principles, but rather than fight with those barring the way, choose your own path.*
- *Always believe in the grassroots growers.*

*In closing ...*

*I extend my thanks to all members, our Board of Directors and staff. Your time and dedication to the effectiveness of our Association is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your daily contributions to BCFGGA and the tree fruit sector.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Pinder Singh Dhaliwal  
President*

*BCFGGA Board of Directors*

*Jeet Dukhia, Vice President*

*Ravinder Bains*

*Talwinder Bassi*

*Sukhdeep Brar*

*Joginder Dhand*

*Avi Gill*

*Mani Gill*