

My name is Peter Simonsen. Our family has been farming in the Naramata area since 1910. Our son and daughter are the 5th generation of growers in our family. We currently farm 45 acres of certified organic apples, pears and peaches. My daughter Annelise and daughter in law Kaleigh operate our “Creek and Gully Cidery” near Penticton which includes an additional 10 acres. We have been co-op members and independents and we clearly understand the advantages and disadvantages of both systems.

As a young man I worked with my relatives on their cattle and sheep ranches and was motivated to get a degree in Agriculture. I graduated from UBC in 1981 and began ground cropping in 1982 near Victoria and have been orcharding since 1987 when we moved to Naramata.

I have always had an interest in politics and respect the political process no matter how slow, painful and frustrating it may be. I am very grateful to live in a country that is governed by rule of law, those laws created through a process of open reasoned and democratic debate.

I have been an alternate director on the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen for the Naramata area, been on the board of the former Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority, am board chair of Summerland Varieties Corporation and have been a dedicated board member of the BC Fruit Growers Association since 2009 with my last 3 years serving as Vice President until Feb 2021.

I was asked by Pinder Dhaliwal to run for the position of president of the BCFGAs as he can no longer give it the attention it requires. I understand and thank Pinder

for the hard work he has done.

Having been on the board for more than 10 years I am aware of the work required of me should I be elected. I also understand that much has happened in the last year, but much had also happened in the 3 years prior when Pinder, our manager Glen Lucas, the board and I lobbied and pushed and argued and as a last resort demonstrated with the result that a reluctant Ministry hired a consultant, formed a group of advisors and implemented a Stabilization Plan.

The plan is now before us, and it will take hard work, patience and positive leadership to achieve positive results.

I believe the best way to achieve this is with a positive replacement for Pinder and a fully engaged board as formed and in place for the past year, to carry the plan to funding and implementation while also working on the important day to day issues of Labour, Agri programs and Crop Insurance.

I urge you to vote. I would be honoured to have your support and promise to lead a cohesive, focused BCFGAs.