

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

August 11, 2017



2017 Replant Program

Update

Inspections of 2017 replant projects have started. We recently concluded discussions to extend the BCFGAs administration of the program by one-year, which allowed the BCFGAs to start inspections.

For the 2017 Replant Program, \$2.3 million in funding applications were received for 2017 and the program budget is \$1.5 million. The original waitlist was therefore \$0.8 million. The BCFGAs subsequently received approval for a further \$200,000 in supplemental funding, which comes from the \$1 million in Supplemental funding announced by the province about a year ago. Some under-utilization of project funds occurs (about 10-15% of projects do not proceed as planned). This slippage releases funds for other projects on the waitlist. A further \$330,00 in Supplemental funding was requested on August 10. Projects are funded in order of the quality of the project, as rated by a committee of horticulturists.

The BCFGAs also received a commitment from new Agriculture Minister Lana Popham for an additional \$5 million to future years of the Replant Program as promised during the May 9 provincial election campaign.

New Minister of Agriculture

First Contact

The BCFGAs met with new Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lana Popham, on August 10 in Kelowna. A [BCFGAs brief](#) was presented and discussion centered around the Minister's [Mandate Letter](#) from the Premier.

The BCFGAs representatives agreed that the meeting was very promising and that expectations are high for a respectful and positive relationship with government that focuses on outcomes and growing the industry's contribution to the BC economy.

New Deputy Minister Wes Shoemaker also attended the meeting with BCFGAs reps Fred Steele, Peter Simonsen and Glen Lucas.

Water Well Registration Workshop August 16

Deadline looms end of year - register for workshop today

Registration of irrigation wells will ensure you have priority of use in times of severe drought. For growers on municipal or community water systems that are supplied by a well, the operator of the system will register the well. [Attend a workshop](#) to find out more and to register your well.

NAFTA Update

Major Initiative for Canadian Horticultural Council

CHC is actively involved in consultations to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), through meetings with members, industry, and government officials. CHC is following the U.S.'s "do no harm" approach, cautioning against removing key elements of NAFTA that are essential to growers' economic sustainability and growth.

CHC has presented Global Affairs Canada with [a list of suggestions to strengthen NAFTA](#). The suggestions stress the importance of harmonized phytosanitary requirements and maximum residue limits among other key issues, so as to benefit agricultural exports on all sides of the border.

Below is a brief timeline of recent activities and upcoming key dates. CHC will continue to monitor NAFTA renegotiations.

- June 12 CHC sent a submission, targeting key asks that would benefit U.S. as well as Canada, to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).
- June 28 CHC Executive Director, Rebecca Lee, met with representatives at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC, and at United Fresh, to discuss NAFTA and its potential impacts on the horticultural sector.
- July 17 USTR issued its objectives for a renegotiated agreement.
- July 20 CHC sent Global Affairs Canada a submission outlining what CHC does not want changed and what could be improved to benefit Canadian horticulture.
- July 27 CHC met with Trade Negotiators at Global Affairs Canada to highlight its submission.
- August 14 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, will appear before Canada's Trade Committee on the government's NAFTA goals.

August 16-20 The first round of NAFTA renegotiations set to begin in Washington, DC. For more information on NAFTA, please contact Jennifer Babcock, Manager of Policy Research and Development, at jbabcock@hortcouncil.ca.

Student Bursaries

Back to school homework

The deadline for the Golden Jubilee Bursary and the Joe Sardinha Memorial Bursary (both \$1,000) is **August 31, 2017**. If you have a student entering into their second year at university or college, [here is information on how to apply](#).

Meetings and Events - check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Date	Meeting	
August 1	Mexico SAWP conference call	Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
August 2	Caribbean SAWP conference call	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
August 8	SIR Board	
August 10	Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lana Popham	Fred Steele, Peter Simonsen, and Glen Lucas
August 17	Federal Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, Hon. Carla Qualtrough	Fred Steele, Bunvir Nijjer and Brenda Jorde
August 23 - 24	National Apple Breeding Network, Kelowna	Sean Beirnes, General Manager Summerland Varieties Corporation
August 24	Kelowna-Kasugai Agricultural Expo	Bunvir Nijjer and Brenda Jorde
August 28	BCFGA Executive	
Sept. 5-7	Federal Liberal Caucus, Kelowna	
Aug 30 - Sept 2	Interior Provincial Exhibition	Visit us at our booth

<p>BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brenda Jorde, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
--	--

The BCFGALabour Orientation and Safety Program

Contact Ron Forrest
250-859-7503
Email: rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com