

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

August 18, 2017



### BCFGA Golden Apple Award

#### Nominations open

Nominations are open for the prestigious Golden Apple Award. Nominations for the 2017 season may be forwarded to Charlotte Leaming (cleaming@bctree.com) or Carl Withler (Carl.Withler@gov.bc.ca). If you know of a deserving neighbour or friend to nominate, contact Carl or Charlotte with their name and address.

### SAWP Update

#### BCFGA responds to RAMA

Last week on CBC radio, the activist group Radical Action for Migrants in Agriculture (RAMA) was interviewed. RAMA said that workers concerns about the effects of forest fire smoke were not being responded to by employers and that RAMA had to provide translation services and transportation to clinics for workers.

On August 18, the BCFGa responded on CBC radio to accusations of lack of response to worker health care concerns. Glen Lucas, General Manager of the BCFGa, noted that the BCFGa does not consider RAMA to be a legitimate representative of foreign workers here on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).

He noted that the competent authorities for work safety are Worksafe BC and the foreign consulates to protect workers (and thus protect the program). If workers or the public sees or has an issue that is imminently of concern to health or safety of SAWP workers, the legitimate contracts are the emergency numbers at the consulates, WorksafeBC, and others.

The BCFGa requests that growers engage with the *appropriate* authorities and be cautious about individuals or groups offering you services for workers related to translation or transportation to health clinics - strangers offering help may belong to an activist group.

If you require Spanish translation services related to a healthcare concern of a worker, please contact Ron Forrest, BCFGa Labour Safety and Orientation Manager at 250-859-7503. If you are uncertain about the affiliation (i.e. activist role) of any person or group offering translation services, please contact a BCFGa director or the BCFGa office.

## 2017 Replant Program

### Update

Inspections of 2017 replant projects have started. The BCFGAs has formalized a request for additional funds so that waitlisted applications may be funded.

## Minimum Wage change

### Heads up for September 15

Minimum wage increases from \$10.85 per hour to \$11.35 per hour on September 15 - here is the [original notice](#). Vacation pay (minimum 4%) is also paid on top of the hourly wage. Piece rates will also increase on September 15, although industry previously requested that there be no change in piece rates. Here is a [summary of employment standards that regulate pay](#), but the the new rates are not yet included in this document as of date of publication.

## Student Bursaries

### Last Chance!

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 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

BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226  
Toll free -1-800-619-9022



- 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 BCFGA Labour Orientation and Safety Program**

Contact Ron Forrest

250-859-7503

Email: [rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com](mailto:rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com)