

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



December 18, 2018

2019 Replant Update

Projects reviewed

Applications have been reviewed for eligibility by the Horticultural Review Committee, eligibility notification results will be mailed out in the New Year.

The BCFGAs will seek provincial authorization to re-open the 2019 program to receive further applications. We will keep you updated when more information is available. Though government has not approved re-opening the program, we have made the case that the deadline of October 31 was too early, given the later growing season in 2018.

District Council Annual Meetings - Meeting Notice

South District Council Annual Meeting

Time: 10 am- 1pm

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Place: Watermark Resort, Osoyoos

North District Council Annual Meeting

Time: 10am- 1pm

Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Place: Ramada Hotel, Kelowna

Agenda:

1. Year in Review: Pinder Dhaliwal
2. Financial Statements and Budget: Glen Lucas
3. Election of District Council Executive
4. Convention preparations, February 12-13, 2019, Penticton Ramada

Note: Delegates (and Alternates) attend the meeting and delegates (or alternates taking the place of delegates) will vote on any motions and in the election of District Council Executive. Members are welcome to attend, but we ask that you pre-register with Bunvir Nijjer at 250-762-5226 ext. 4.

Competitiveness Fund Launched

January 9, 2019 deadline for first intake

Information on the Competitiveness Fund is provided in a link on the [BCFGA Home page](#).

The Project Review Committee met and agreed to the priorities in the recent update to the industry strategy, as well as a method of rating projects. It is strongly suggested that applicants read the industry strategy update prior to developing the project proposal. The first round of project intake is **January 9, 2019** with a second intake in March.

Water Well Licensing Workshop

Space is limited, register today!

The RDOS is offering a workshop in Penticton on January 31, 12:30 - 4 pm. Here is [the poster for the event](#).

Federal Government Announces Improvements to Amortization

Changes announced in November

The federal government is addressing a widening competitive gap by introducing three measures which will allow faster expensing of capital investments:

- Immediate expensing for manufacturers and processors – 100 per cent of the cost of machinery and equipment can be written off in the year of purchase beginning *now*, phased out beginning in 2024.
- Immediate expensing for clean energy investments – 100 per cent of the cost of specified clean energy equipment can be written off in the year of purchase, again beginning now and phased out starting in 2024.
- Accelerated investment incentive – triples the current first year rate on capital investments on a range of spending from software to buildings and patents. Some examples of first year deductions under this incentive are: 100 percent of software investments, 82.5 percent of the cost of computers and 60 percent of spending on trucks and tractors for hauling. This also begins immediately and will begin being phased out starting in 2024.

Contact your accountant/financial advisor and plan to take full advantage of these improvements to the way businesses account for capital investment.

BCFGA Delegates 2019

Elected at the November 2018 Regional meetings

North Delegates (8)	South Delegates (7)
1. Tarsem Goraya	1. Mohinder Dhaliwal
2. Jeet Dukhia	2. Emerson Khosa
3. Amarjit Lalli	3. Ranbir Kambo
4. Madeleine van Roechoudt	4. Doug Nield
5. Joginder Dhand	5. Charanjit Ghuman
6. Mike Mitchell	6. Alan Patton
7. Penny Gambell	7. Mehar Khaira
8. Surjit Nagra	
North Alternate Delegates	South Alternate Delegates
Balwinder Khun Khun, David Dobernigg, Parmjit Patara, Tahir Raza, Jadvinder Nijjer	Baljit Gill, Parm Dhaliwal, Denise MacDonald, Balwinder Sidhu

Positive News on the Temporary Farm Worker Programs

Use these links to promote our farm employers and farm workers

[Taproot Farms, Port Williams, Nova Scotia](#)

[Le Ferme Quinn, Notre-Dame-de-Ille-Perrot, Quebec](#)

[John Paterson, Mayor of Leamington, \(2010-2018\) Ontario](#)

Environmental Farm Plan

Prepare ahead of time - start now!

Prepare an EFP, and then apply for funding of priority projects.

Applications must be approved, and are subject to deadlines and application windows.

For details please go to the [EFP website](#).

Membership Renewal Time

Reminder for growers who do not ship to BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

Annual membership dues must be received in the office by February 1, 2019, to allow time for staff to organize and prepare for the Annual Convention on February 12-13.

Fees are budgeted at \$230 base fee and \$21.00/acre for any acreage over 5 acres that is planted to tree fruits.

All BC Tree Fruits Cooperative growers are members of the BCFGA, and membership is automatically renewed.

2019 BCFGA Board of Directors nominations

Nominated at the November 2018 Regional meetings

One-half of the Directors are elected each year, starting in 2019. For odd-numbered years, Vice-President, 2 North and 1 South Directors are elected.

Board Position	2018 Executive	2019 Nominations (region)
President	Pinder Dhaliwal	[2020 election]
Vice President	Peter Simonsen**	Peter Simonsen (North) Peter Simonsen (South)
North Directors*	David Dobernigg** Sukhdev Goraya** Karm Gill ***	David Dobernigg Sukhdev Goraya [2020 election]
South Directors*	Ravinder Bains** David Machial *** Deep Brar ***	Ravinder Bains [2020 election] [2020 election]
* Nominated and elected by members in their respective regions.	** These director positions are up for election in 2019	*** These director positions are not up for election until 2020.

SAWP Problems

You know who to call!

There have been improvements to the processing of SAWP applications in the past year (though we are still concerned that biometrics may slow things down for Mexico SAWP worker arrivals). Also, the BCFGA's Bunvir Nijjer is now a *Registered Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC)*, so she is able to contact Service Canada directly if you provide her with authorization to act on your behalf.

If you have any SAWP issues that BCFGA should be aware of, please contact Bunvir Nijjer or Glen Lucas at the BCFGA office, 250-762-5226, or your BCFGA director (list at end of the newsletter). *We can't manage what we don't know about! (and we don't like surprises!).*

Water Well Registration

February 28, 2019 deadline

Not attending the January 31, 2019 RDOS workshop on licensing your water well? You must register your agricultural irrigation water well by February 28, 2019 to retain right to use the well. "Groundwater licensing ensures there is a fair and transparent mechanism in place for determining who uses the water during shortages". If you are not registered, your use of water may not be allowed during water shortages. "A water license is tied to your land and provides major benefits to your business including the protection of your water from future developments". Registration is not required if you only use your well for domestic (residential) purposes only.

Start your applications by contacting FrontCounterBC at:

www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/start/ground-water or telephone 1-877-855-3222

SAWP

Question the week

Earlier this year, the [SAWP Housing Guidelines](#) were updated and posted on the BCAC Website. What is new with SAWP housing?

The Housing Inspectors in the Okanagan met on October 9 to review the program changes and discuss the program requirements - everyone agreed that attendance at the annual or semi-annual update be a requirement for SAWP housing inspectors. At the October 9 meeting, the housing inspectors, WALI representatives, Jamaican Liaison representatives (and at other meetings, Mexico Consulate representatives) made the following observations about SAWP housing:

- *The housing inspection must be done within the last 8 months prior to the date the LMIA application is received by Service Canada.*
- *In some rare instances (e.g. new housing construction or an ATCO type trailer that is not delivered in time), the inspection can be done after the SAWP application (LMIA) is submitted; however, the grower must agree that the housing be in place and inspected no less than 30 days prior to first arrival of workers.*
- *The ratio for washing machines is 1 to 10 TFWs.*
- *As identified last year, on-site laundry facilities are now mandatory.*
- *General cleanliness and maintenance is an ongoing issue. It was noted that house rules are being developed by WALI to provide to the TFWs and to post in the housing facilities.*
- *The Jamaican Liaison Service continues to conduct pre and mid-season inspections and Mexico Consulate conducts some visits during the season.*
- *There is still some concern that the closet spaces are too small and adequate amount of storage space is not being provided in the sleeping quarters.*
- *The mattress quality also still a concern but the consensus was to continue making a subjective judgement (that it is in good condition and not soiled) as it can be difficult to determine adequate standard.*
- *It was encouraged to use curtains instead of blinds for window coverings because the blinds can be damaged unintentionally by the TFWs.*
- *It was requested that two sets of bed sheets be provided per worker so they have an extra set between washes.*

- The quality of the pillows is a concern as well and again it was agreed to make an subjective judgement.
- WALL is working to standardize the fire safety requirements for a future year.

It was noted there has been improvement in housing between 2017 and 2018, and growers are encouraged to continue the good maintenance practices to keep housing up-to-date.

SAWP

Caribbean contacts

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Country Population (2015 est)	SAWP workers in Canada, (average 2005-2009)	Contact	Phone
Antigua and Barbuda	93,900	9	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Barbados	287,500	428	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997
Dominica	72,700		Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Grenada	107,900	94	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Jamaica	2,790,200	6,821	Donna Adams	250-869-6288
St. Kitts and Nevis	55,400	29	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Lucia	183,800	234	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Vincent and Grenadines	107,900	291	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Trinidad and Tobago	1,332,700	2,040		416-435-7048

*Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service includes the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines.

In BC, Mexicans are the largest group of SAWP workers, followed by Jamaica and Barbados of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Details
Dec 17	BCFGA Resolutions Committee	
Dec 18	Post-Market Pesticide Re-Evaluation Review	Glen Lucas
Dec. 19	Starling Control Committee	Deep Brar, Glen Lucas
Jan. 8	BCFGA South District Council AGM	
Jan. 9	BCFGA Honorarium Committee	
Jan. 9	BCFGA North District Council AGM	

Jan. 9	BCFGA Member Services Committee	
Feb 12-13	BCFGA Annual Convention	
Feb 20	Tree Fruit Hort Symposium	
Feb 27-28	Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM	Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas
Mar 5-7	Canadian Horticultural Council AGM	Pinder Dhaliwal, Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas

BCFGAs Office 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, local 1. • Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. • Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3. • Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, local 4.
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Note: BCFGAs has a very small office with limited staff. With many activities undertaken on behalf of our 487 members, Members should call to make an appointment to be sure of staff being present to meet with you (staff are often away on business related to the BCFGAs). You may call your local director so that the BCFGAs Board can remain informed on how to best represent the tree fruit growers of BC.

BCFGAs Board of Directors

Name		Telephone
Bhupinder (Pinder) Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	Cell/text 250496-5156
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
Karm Gill	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-9737
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	Cell/text 250- 859-1229
David Machial	Oliver	Cell/text 250-485-2636
David Dobernigg	Vernon	Cell/text 250-550-8999

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF AT BCFGAs

