

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

February 17, 2018



Government Program for 2017 Apple Crop Revenue Decline

AgriStability Info Sessions - This Week!

The Ag Risk Management Branch will be hosting information sessions in the Okanagan this week. **Growers are urged to attend** and get information on how the AgriStability Program can help with low apple revenue for 2017.

- Osoyoos, Monday, February 19 - Best Western, 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Kelowna, Wednesday, February 21 - Ramada Hotel on Harvey Avenue, 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Vernon, Thursday, February 22 - Prestige Inn, 6 pm to 8 pm.

The sessions will provide In-depth information on the 2017 BC Enhancement Program, as well as providing information on how to fill out program forms.

One on one sessions will also be available following the session which can be set up by appointment. Contact Dalraj Boparai | AgriStability Verifier ([250\) 712- 3645](tel:2507123645), dalraj.boparai@gov.bc.ca

Breaking News

Agriculture Minister Lana Popham announces new program

The [Agriculture Minister announced a \\$5 million Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund](#) at the BCFGAs Annual Convention on February 16. The new program honours a commitment made by John Horgan during the provincial election campaign.

The fund will be open to tree fruit growers, producers, and processors to support three key areas of priority:

- Research: cultivar, disease and pest research.
- Marketing: export market opportunities and market development research.
- Infrastructure: sector-based infrastructure modernization such as new equipment.

The fund will also be available to service waitlisted projects in future.

SAWP Employer Meetings

Mexico and Caribbean countries are hosting an information session on SAWP

- Feb 21, Kelowna: Coast Capri Hotel, 9:15 am - 3 pm
- Feb 22, Osoyoos: Watermark Beach Resort, 9:15 am - 3 pm

Unfortunately, the sessions are full, so no further registrations will be taking place.

For more information on the SAWP program, check out [Labour on the BCFGAs website](#), and [Labour on the BCAC website](#).

New Board of Directors Elected

New process starting next year

The BCFGA members attending the Annual Convention elected the following Board of Directors on Friday, February 16, 2018:

Board of Directors	City	Term (years)
Pinder Dhaliwal, President	Oliver	2
Peter Simonsen, Vice President	Penticton	1
David Machial	Oliver	2
Sukhdeep Brar	Summerland	1
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	1
Karmjit Gill	Kelowna	2
David Dobernigg	Vernon	2
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	1

The first meeting of the new Board is scheduled for February 26.

Outgoing President Fred Steele Recognized

Served Growers for 4 years as President and 3 as Vice-President

Fred Steele was honoured at the BCFGA Annual Convention Reception, Thursday, February 15. Fred was presented with a framed watercolour painting of his 'growing up' home in Oyama.

Fred was instrumental in working with the provincial government to bring a 7 year, \$9.5 million Replant Program to the industry. Activity in just the past month included:

- Working with the BCTF Cooperative and province to respond to the 2017 apple crop income decline, and making growers aware of the enhanced AgriStability Program.
- Continuing to work on a national 'bare land' program.
- Seeking alternatives for packinghouse renewal of infrastructure.
- Working to achieve a \$5 million Tree Fruit COmpetitiveness Fund

Thank you for Fred for all of your effort and contributions over the years.

Convention Documents

In case you missed it

The Portfolio and Convention Reports are available on [our website](#).