

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

February 1, 2019



2019 Replant Program

Quick update

The Replant Program deadline was extended to January 31, 2019. About 33 applications were received (Brenda Jorde is temporarily away on sick leave, so this number is subject to change).

Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

Annual update meeting

The SAWP training sessions were well attended, with about 60 employers attending in Kelowna and 40 in Osoyoos. Growers received program updates, including changes in the program for this year. There was also discussion on the comparison of SAWP and TFW - Ag Stream and the benefits of each.

Consular and Liaison services emphasised the two major points of the meeting:

- Communication
- Respect (both ways, but employer has special leadership role)

Also emphasised were the many teams involved working to make the program successful:

- Consular and liaison services
- Western Agricultural Labour Initiative (WALI)
- MiTierra Travel Agency
- WorkSafeBC
- AgSafeBC
- BCFGA

All presenters agree: "Let's keep working to make the program a success".

BCFGA Annual Convention

Preparations for February 12-13 at the Penticton Lakeside

The BCFGA Annual Convention Portfolio is being mailed today, and is also available on the website. The Portfolio includes information on the meeting, reports, and resolutions.

Condolences

Mark Haithwaith, winner of the 2015 Golden Apple Award passed away suddenly on January 14, 2019 in his orchard. Our condolences to Mark's wife, Chyrel.

SAWP Contacts

Here are some important contacts for the SAWP Program

<p>Service Canada Employer Contact Centre: Ph: 1-800-367-5693</p> <p>Fax for SAWP LMIA's: 1-855-221-1601 (519 number is not active!)</p> <p>Fax for Ag. Stream LMIA's: 1-866-720-6094</p>	<p>BCAC/WALI info@walicanada.ca Veronica Moreno, BCAC Labour Manager vmoreno@walicanada.ca</p> <p>Mi Tierra Holidays info@mitierraholidays.com</p>
<p>WorkSafeBC Kira Berntson, Occupational Hygiene Officer Ph: 1-250-979-4175</p>	<p>Reid McIntyre, Occupational Safety Officer Ph: 1-250-717-4329</p>

SAWP

Mexico Consulate contacts

<p>For arrivals, transfers or Cowan Insurance Carolina Nunez- 604-684-1859 ext.3060 cnunez@consulmexvan.com</p>	<p>For any issue related to housing and bullying Karla Enriquez- 604-684-1859 ext. 3055 kenriquez@consulmexvan.com</p>
<p>For any health related issue Sandra Martinez- 604-684-1859 ext. 3040 smartinez@consulmexvan.com</p>	<p>For info regarding the TFWs' CPP, Pension, Paternity and Maternity Hipolito Reyes- 604-684-1859 ext. 4015 hreyes@consulmexvan.com</p>
<p>For any info regarding the TFWs' TD1, TD4, payments, payroll Beatriz Almada- 604-684-1859 ext. 3135 balmada@consulmexvan.com</p>	

SAWP

Caribbean contacts

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Country Population	Contact	Phone	Email
Eastern Caribbean States (7)	438,000	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662	charmaine.williams@oecs.int
Barbados	287,500	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997	swall-mayers@foreign.gov.bb
Jamaica	2,790,200	Donna Adams Kelowna Office	250-869-6288 250-762-4219	jamlowna@telus.net
Trinidad and Tobago	1,332,700		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

SAWP

Question of the week

Should SAWP employers provide a cash advance to foreign workers when they arrive, and how to keep track / record the cash advance?

- *Many employers note the workers appreciate an advance of about \$300 when they arrive.*
- *Make sure that the advance is recorded on paper, that the advance has the worker's name, the date of the advance, and the method of repayment. The note should be signed by the worker and kept in the workers file. It is a good idea to provide the worker with a copy. Some growers have a form for this purpose. [Example is on our website.](#)*
- *Many growers suggest that the amount be recovered out of several payrolls. For example, some growers take \$150 from each of the first two pays - let the worker know!*
- *If the worker is not receiving a full pay due to a slow time in the season, it is suggested that an advance be provided, as the workers' family is normally expecting a regular remittance from the worker. Again, depending on the amount, the worker.*
- *Timeliness of pay - it is common to pay every other week, with one week 'held back' as the hours worked immediately prior to the payroll being prepared are not known. Payroll must be prepared within 8 days of the pay period.*

Competitiveness Fund - Can you apply?

Second intake deadline

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

A deadline has not been set for the second application intake deadline, but it is likely to be in March. However, applications may be submitted at any time.

For individual farm or business development resources, please refer to www.AgriServiceBC.ca

There you will find specific links to:

- Learn how to start a new farm
- Learn how to start a food processing business

For individual farm or agri-business marketing support, please see <http://iafbc.ca/buy-bc/cost-shared-funding/> for BC marketing assistance and

<http://iafbc.ca/funding-opportunities/market-development/> for market training, research and planning as well as export marketing funding.

Funds are limited for agri-business marketing support and export marketing funding programs are limited.

Meetings and Workshops

Ministry of Agriculture

Business Planning Workshops

- [Kelowna: March 5 2019](#): Community Futures Central Okanagan #210-1726 Dolphin Avenue, Kelowna, BC
- [Cranbrook: March 7 2019](#): Farm Kitchen | #1324 2nd Street North, Cranbrook, BC

Learn all of the requirements of a **BUSINESS PLAN**.

- Learn key **FINANCIAL** components of your business.
- Get **MARKET READY** and Position your brand to drive sales.
- Navigate **PACKAGING** compliance. Refine your recipe to scale up.
- Gain Insights into **DISTRIBUTION**. Sell at the right price.
- Learn key components to build a **DIGITAL STRATEGY**.


Have a question? Call 604-454-8806 or email info@goodtogrowproducts.com

AgriServiceBC Webinars

- [The Cherry Industry: A Made in B.C. Success Story](#)
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019
Time: 2 PM P.S.T.
Presenter: Carl Withler, Industry Specialist for Treefruits and Grapes,
 BC Ministry of Agriculture
 For registration,
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriservice-bc/webinars>

Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Details
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, 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.

BCFGA 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