

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

January 4, 2018



### Happy New Year

Meetings meetings meetings - the holidays are over!

For those who are interested in PAC points to renew their Pesticide Applicators Certificate, the meetings will be offering points this Winter/Spring:

Jan 24-26 Lower Mainland Growers' Short Course, [Abbotsford](#)  
Feb 20 Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium, Kelowna  
March Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings - dates to be confirmed

In addition, there are PAC points available for first aid and sprayer calibration.

A separate program is the Pesticide Handlers Course, currently offered by BC Tree Fruit Cooperative to its members. The course is aimed at sprayer operators, who then meet the formal training requirement for food safety. PAC points are also offered to Certificate holders for the Pesticide Handlers Course.

### 2019 Replant Program - Deadline Extended!!!

Missed the October 31 deadline? New deadline gives added time

The province has agreed to re-open the 2019 Replant program to new applications with the new deadline, **January 31, 2019**. The rationale was:

- last season was 3-4 weeks later than the prior two seasons, so growers ran out of time.
- several growers had inquired about an extension.

In future the program will be open until November 30 and extensions will not be considered.

The BCFGGA home page has a [link the program information and application](#).

### Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

#### Annual Grower Information Session

WorksafeBC is sponsoring meetings that provide information on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. The meeting provides growers with practical information and tips on the program.

#### North Okanagan SAWP Grower Meeting

Noon - 4 pm (lunch included)  
Thursday, January 31, 2019  
Ramada Hotel, Kelowna

#### South Okanagan SAWP Grower Meeting

8 am - noon (light breakfast included)  
Friday, February 1, 2019  
Watermark Beach Resort Hotel, Osoyoos

**Registration required**, sessions and lunch are free of charge. Interested family members welcome. Email us if you are attending: which session (South or North) and names of who is attending. [info@bcfga.com](mailto:info@bcfga.com)

## **Competitiveness Fund - Can you apply?**

**January 9, 2019 deadline for first intake**

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

To see if your project idea may be eligible, please review the industry strategy entitled BC Tree Fruits Industry Competitiveness Fund. The Rating sheet will also give you an idea of priority criteria that will guide the assessment of applications.

Once you have reviewed the documents and consider your project fits the initiative, please fill in the application form and submit with any supporting documents such as business profile, letters of support and/or research methodology to [funding@iafbc.ca](mailto:funding@iafbc.ca)

For individual farm or business development resources, please refer to [www.AgriServiceBC.ca](http://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 programs are limited..

## **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](#).

## **District Council Meetings - Meeting Notice**

South District Council Annual Meeting

Time: 10am- 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

Delegates attend the meeting 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.

## SAWP

### Question of the week


What is new in the 2019 SAWP Program?

- *Dedicated washer and dryer is required.*
- *As of January 1, 2019, biometrics (fingerprinting and facial recognition) is required for all workers (obtained at IRCC offices/contractors in foreign country). Please ensure you request access to SIMOL (Ministry of Labour database) in order to track the status of your workers' permits. Email Maria Fernanda Sanchez ([fernanda.sanchez@stps.gob.mx](mailto:fernanda.sanchez@stps.gob.mx)) to gain access.*
- *Washrooms may be in separate buildings, but must be within 30m of sleeping area and for sole use of TFWs*
- *New questions regarding fire safety- in particular a fire alarm system be installed in buildings where more than 10 unrelated people are sleeping. Please note that the threshold varies municipality to municipality. Please check with your local fire department.*
- *"Pass with conditions" is no longer accepted by ESDC and has been removed from the inspection form. However, it is possible that housing inspection can be deferred if trailers are ordered or a construction contract is in place - contact BCFGa for more info.*
- *Approved housing inspections are valid for 8 months. An employer submitting an LMIA application after the 8 months must have an updated inspection.*
- *No longer need to include a copy of the Employment Contract with the LMIA application. Employers are still required to have a copy of the contract on file, signed by both employers TFWs (signed after the employees arrive)*
- *[Min. Piece rate increased by 11.5% as of January 1, 2019.](#) Min. hourly wage is \$12.65 (increasing to \$13.85 as of June 1st, 2019).*

### Meetings and Events

| Date    | Meeting                                   | Details   |
|---------|---|---|
| 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           |   |
| Jan. 9  | Deadline: 1st intake Competitiveness Fund |   |
| Jan. 31 | Deadline: 2019 Replant Program            | Extended from October 31, 2018  |
| Jan. 31 | SAWP Grower Information Session           | Noon- 4 pm, Kelowna. Register <a href="mailto:info@bcfga.com">info@bcfga.com</a>  |
| Feb. 1  | SAWP Grower Information Session           | 8 am - noon, Osoyoos. Register <a href="mailto:info@bcfga.com">info@bcfga.com</a> |

|           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| 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 |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| BCFGA Office 250-762-5226<br>Toll free -1-800-619-9022<br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, local 1.</li> <li>• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.</li> <li>• Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.</li> <li>• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, local 4.</li> </ul> |
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*Note: BCFGa 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 BCFGa). You may call your local director so that the BCFGa Board can remain informed on how to best represent the tree fruit growers of BC.*

### **BCFGA Board of Directors**

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

### **SAWP Tip of the Week**

Check out these [SAWP documents on our website](#).

2019 Employment Contracts are available for [Mexico](#) and [Caribbean countries](#).

*Note: A copy of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) employment contract is no longer to be included with the LMIA application. Employers sign and keep the contract, then have the employee sign the contract when they arrive. File a copy in the employee file and provide the employee with a copy. Employers are required to have a copy of the contract on file, signed by both the employer and workers (after they arrive), in the event of any inspection.*