

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

March 2, 2018



Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings 2.5 PAC points (1 A, 1.5 B)

Tuesday, March 6, 2018	Wednesday, March 7, 2018	Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Oliver 9 am - 11:30 am <u>Meeting room #1</u> Oliver Rec Centre 6359 Park Drive Oliver, BC		
Penticton 1:30 pm- 4 pm <u>Meeting room #7</u> Penticton Trade and Convention Centre 273 Power Street Penticton, BC	Winfield 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Winfield Memorial Hall 10130 Bottom Wood Lake Rd Winfield, BC	Creston 7 pm - 9:30 pm <u>Erickson Room</u> Creston Rec Center 312 19 Avenue N Creston, BC

The meetings will include presentations on pest updates and pest control, and the spray schedules will be available at the meetings. Growers may access the spray schedules at www.bctfpg.com and selecting "Spray Schedule" and then the appropriate commodity (the print version of the spray schedule is available by selecting the printer icon in the upper right). If accessing the spray schedule on-line, the schedule is up-to-date and the date the spray schedule is printed is now included when the schedule is printed on-line.

SAWP Employer Meetings

Give us your feedback

Did you attend the SAWP information sessions in Osoyoos or Kelowna? If so, please complete [the event survey](#) for us, if you have not already completed a paper form at the session.

Pollinator Survey

one more reminder - last chance for a Tim Horton's gift card

The researchers are closing the survey on March 15 and that is the last day to participate and receive an egift card.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pollination_CAapplegrowers

Convention Documents

In case you missed it

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

City of Kelowna Ag Plan

Bylaws considered - your feedback encouraged

Kelowna City Council endorsed the [City's Agriculture Plan](#) in August 2017. City staff were directed to make plans for the implementation to achieve the vision of *"Kelowna is a resilient, diverse, and innovative agricultural community that celebrates farming and values farmland and food producers as integral to our healthy food system, economy, and culture."*

The City is inviting growers' (and public) input on the following proposed policies:

- Maximum Home Size on A1 Properties
- Vegetative Buffers for urban properties adjacent to ALR lots
- Secondary use changes for properties zoned A1

Participate at getinvolved.kelowna.ca/agriculture-plan by March 31, 2018 and provide your feedback on three proposed policies.

Federal Budget 2018 Highlights

February 27 Budget - Canadian Federation of Agriculture Comments

1. **Regulatory Modernization**

Comment: Canada's agri-food and aquaculture sector was identified in the short-list of candidates for targeted reviews of regulatory bottlenecks. The government announced The Canadian Free Trade Agreement Regulatory Reconciliation - the development of a single online platform, modelled on the U.S. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs website also represents a commitment to transparency and efficiency of the Canadian regulatory environment.

The noted investment in the CFIA is positive, although questions remain as to whether this modest increase in investment is sufficient to account for the significant increase in inspection responsibilities faced by the agency.

1. **Trade & New Markets**

Comment: Investments in modernizing the platform for export support programs through the Trade Commission Services, including amalgamation of trade promotion programs and a more agile on-the-ground workforce, represent a commitment, albeit relatively modest, to the export agenda set out for Canadian agriculture in Budget 2017. The Budget outlines an export strategy that includes commitments to provide an additional \$75 million over five years to Global Affairs Canada to increase its presence in China.

While the focus of these investments demonstrates a continued commitment to exports and a strategy for further export growth, the investments are relatively modest in nature and there is no direct reference to Budget 2017's agri-food export targets.

2. *Further Clarity on Passive Investment Income*

Comment: Budget 2018's announcement regarding a new passive investment income tax regime provides clarity on a new mechanism to address specific concerns raised in fall 2017 with regard to tax planning by private corporations.

While generally in line with the announcements made by Minister Morneau in October 2017, Budget 2018 puts forward a new approach to address the accumulation of passive savings in private corporation. This puts in place new limits on access to the small business tax rate, with every \$1 of annual passive investment income resulting in a \$5 reduction in that corporation's small business deduction limit. This limit would exempt any income from active business assets or those incidental to that business. Further restrictions are also put in place to prevent obtaining refunds on taxes paid on investment income through the distribution of dividends from income taxed at the general rate. Neither measure comes into effect until January 1, 2019.

Although seemingly in line with the October 2017 announcements, CFA will be reviewing these proposals in greater detail over the coming weeks to fully assess the potential implications for Canadian farmers. Budget 2018 also referenced future plans to address further tax loopholes, which CFA will look closely at to determine whether there is any possibility for undue burdens and/or tax liabilities for Canadian farmers.

3. *Investments in Canada's Innovation & Research Environment*

Comment: A wide range of investments were made into research, including significant investments in Canada's granting councils Canada's Regional Development Agencies, and augmented guidelines for the Industrial Research Assistance Program, and the Strategic Innovation Fund that may create further opportunities to fund Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the agri-food processing sector. Budget 2018 also laid out a clear commitment to the Government of Canada's continued role in driving fundamental, basic research.

CFA will follow up on these investments to assess the extent to which agriculture is recognized as a research priority and take measures to ensure agricultural investments are prioritized wherever possible.

4. *Investments in Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Comment: A number of modest investments were made with regard to climate change adaptation and helping Canada progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, Budget 2018 clearly notes, for the first time, that the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund will help the agriculture sector increase stored carbon in soils, which is something CFA intends to follow up on. This is a welcome signal, as the fund may help offset some of the carbon pricing costs and to show that agriculture needs a different approach for emissions reduction.

Tax support for clean energy was also extended, and may benefit agricultural operations by decreasing the costs associated with some on-farm investments in clean energy production.

Modest contributions were also made to Canada's weather and water services to help with climate change adaptation. These investments were focused on adaptation to the increased prevalence of severe weather events and improved water forecasting, which could have benefits on a number of fronts for Canadian agriculture. As with many of the investments noted, CFA will seek further information to fully assess the implications of Budget 2018 on Canadian agriculture.

AgriStability

Be aware of deadlines

The AgriStability Program will help many growers with low apple revenue for 2017. Here are some deadlines to be aware of:

December 31, 2017. The normal deadline to pay the fee to participate in 2017 AgriStability - this has past, but do not worry! There is a new deadline to apply late, without penalty - April 30, 2018.

March 31, 2018. The deadline to apply for an Interim Payment. An Interim Payment is an estimate of your AgriStability program payment. For example, if your program payment is estimated at \$10,000, you could receive an Interim Payment of \$7,500. A new participant can enroll in the program and apply for an interim payment at the same time. Interim payments can be applied for using the [2017 AgriStability Interim Application](#). The deadline is March 31st, 2018.

April 30, 2018. The new deadline to apply and possibly pay the fee for AgriStability for 2017. If you are not currently participating in AgriStability, you may register late for 2017 coverage, up until April 30, 2018. If you have not yet paid the fee to register for 2017 AgriStability, complete and submit the [2017 Late Participant Initial Declaration and Authorization Form](#) to the AgriStability Administration by scanning and emailing, faxing or by mail.

September 30, 2018. The deadline to submit the completed Harmonized Form without penalty. If you receive an Interim payment for the 2017 crop, you must submit your Harmonized Tax form by September 30, 2018 or pay the advance back.

For further information, contact 1-877-343-2767. If, after applying and having your information reviewed by AgriStability, you find that you are not eligible or the program is not working for you, please contact a BCFGa director or the BCFGa office to let us know.

Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund

Details being worked out

The [Agriculture Minister announced a \\$5 million Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund](#) at the BCFGa Annual Convention on February 16. BCFGa is meeting with government and BCIAF representatives to work out detail on the how the fund will work.

We do know that 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 Replant projects in future.

Mexico SAWP Delays?

Gathering information

If you are getting the runaround re your application from Service Canada, please send [Bunvir an email](#) with the following:

- Your Name
- Date you sent in your LMIA
- Any response from Service Canada
- Whether you sent in a request to Expedite
- How many workers
- When you need them
- If Service Canada has called you with unusual questions.

Mexico SAWP 2018 Form Available

One last reminder - do not use the 2017 Form

Use the appropriate 2018 forms on these websites:

[SAWP Mexico](#)

[SAWP Caribbean](#)

Allow plenty of time - apply 12 weeks prior to worker arrival - delays this year are the worst ever. BCFGAs and all of Canadian agriculture is placing a priority on getting the attention of government to improve the program administration.

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

New Board of Directors Meets

First organizational meeting after the February 16 BCFGAs Election

The new BCFGAs Directors met February 26. Pinder Dhaliwal, President, chaired the meeting. Meeting highlights:

The individual Board members reviewed and signed a “Code of Conduct” for Board members. Several operating policies of the Board were reviewed and approved (mainly without change to previous policy), including:

- Conflict of Interest.
- Confidentiality.
- Public Relations / Spokesperson.
- Lobby Activity.
- Donations.
- Regional Government Election Support.
- Preferential Appointment of BCFGAs Members to Positions.
- Computer Decommissioning.
- Financial: Signing Authorities. Spending Limits, Depreciations and Expense Claims.
- Executive Per Diems and Expenses
- Harassment (bullying).
- SVC Statement of Shareholder Priorities and SVC Independence.

The budget was reviewed. The Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund Announcement was reviewed and a timetable to establish fund application criteria was established. BCFGA Committee Chairs were decided, as follows:

Committee	Chair
Financial Programs	Sukhdev Goraya
Labour	Pinder Dhaliwal
Member Services	David Dobernigg
Industry Strategy	Deep Brar/Peter Simonsen/Karm Gill
Crop Protection	David Machial/Peter Simonsen
Public Relations Spokesperson	Pinder Dhaliwal/Peter Simonsen
Environment and Water	Deep Brar
Accounting and Audit	Sukhdev Goraya

Committee membership was also reviewed and provisionally established. If you are interested in serving on a BCFGA committee, contact the chair.

The Board agreed that immediate priorities for the BCFGA are SAWP processing times and the low apple prices for the 2017 crop. Other priorities for the year had an initial review, and will be subject of a Board strategy session:

- i. Industry Strategy Committee
 - Industry organizations, planning session
 - Marketing plan
 - Infrastructure renewal
- ii. Member Services
 - Member information brochure
 - Pilot project on automated records, like Crop Tracker
 - ALR review
 - FIRB Fees
- iii. Labour
 - SAWP processing delays
 - Farm labour management support
 - TFWH bylaws
- iv. Crop Protection
 - Apple Clearwing Moth Project, BMSB and AM activity
 - Product reviews/GROU priority
 - Urban Deer Cull project
 - SIR
- v. Financial Programs
 - Low 2017 Apple Prices: AgriStability participation
 - CRT negotiations
- vi. Water and Environment
 - CRT project - irrigation pricing, volume
 - Water Reserve

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for April 6.

Obituaries

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of two prominent BCFGGA members, both were active in the industry and passed away too early in their lifetime.

Greg Norton

An active cherry orchardist, Greg passed away suddenly on February 24, 2018 at age 65. Greg is a BCFGGA member and was involved in local government as well as the BC Cherry Association past president. He was founding Chair of the Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Board and active in the Agriculture Research and Development Corporation. Greg was appointed to the Agricultural Land Commission in December 2017 and remained active in that capacity.

Greg was also president of the Loose Bay Campground Society, working to improve the campground every year for the workers visiting from Quebec. Everyone who met Greg admired his charming Western character, his vision and his drive.

Pierre Calissi

Pierre, past Vice-President of the BCFGGA, passed away unexpectedly on February 28 at age 57 after a short illness. Pierre retired from his apple orchard and took to the road as a truck driver a few years ago. Up until then, he served on the BCFGGA Executive and served several years as Vice-President under Joe Sardinha. Pierre followed developments in the industry up to the end, attending the BCFGGA Annual Convention on February 15-16.

Pierre was another Western character, always ready with a story and quick sense of humor. Pierre had health challenges in the past year, but was recovering when his untimely death occurred.



Meetings and Events - check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Date	Meeting	Attending for the BCFGAs
March 6	TFPG, 9:00 - 11:30 am, Oliver Parks and Recreation, 6359 Park Drive, Oliver	
March 6	TFPG, 1:30 - 4:00 pm, Penticton Trade and Convention Centre, 273 Power Street, Penticton	
March 7	TFPG, 1:30 - 4:00 pm, Winfield Memorial Hall, 10130 Bottom Wood Lake Road, Lake Country	
March 6	CFIA's Sidney laboratory Infrastructure	Glen Lucas
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM	Glen Lucas
March 13-15	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
March 16	SIR	
March 16	Roundtable on Worker Protections, Integrity Policy and Program Intelligence Division, Temporary Foreign Worker Program	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
March 21	Quarterly Caribbean SAWP Annual Conf. Call	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
April 6	BCFGA Board of Directors	

<p>BCFGA Office 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022 </p>	<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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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 360-550-8999