

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

November 24, 2017



BCFGA Special General Meeting

Delegates Discuss Bylaws

Delegates met Thursday, November 16, 2017 to consider some proposed changes to the BCFGGA bylaws. Thank you to delegates and members who attended the meeting.

Bylaw changes included some 'housekeeping' and also some changes in governance of the BCFGGA. Most immediate change is a move to 2 year terms for the Board of Directors - for the Regional meetings on November 28 (South) and November 30 (North), this is the last year that all 8 delegate positions will be nominated. At the February 15-16, 2018 Annual Convention, half of the eight will be elected to 2 year terms, and the other half to one year term. Starting with the 2019 election, only 4 of the Board of Directors positions will be elected each year.

Here is a quick summary of other changes to the bylaws adopted by delegates at the meeting (SAR = Society Act requirement):

- Majority to pass special resolutions, including changes to bylaws is two-thirds (SAR).
- BCFGGA is a member-funded organization (SAR alternative was 'charity').
- Dissolution provision: if BCFGGA terminates (not likely after 128 years!) then remaining assets go to a research trust fund administered by BC Tree Fruit Cooperative (SAR).
- Added specifics on Associate Membership for retired members and business associates.
- Changed minimum annual sales requirement for full membership to \$15,000. Existing full members with less than \$15,000 annual sales will be 'grandfathered'. New members with less than \$15,000 annual sales will be associate members (non-voting).
- Changed the name of "Executive" to "Board of Directors".
- Allow close family members to represent a sole proprietorship or membership farm. This appointment of representative must occur in the 2 weeks after the Annual Convention and is in place until the end of the next Annual Convention. The purpose of the change is to allow interest children (and children-in-laws) and spouses to participate.

SAWP Housing Update from Service Canada

Housing Inspectors

[BCAC has issued a memo](#) explaining that Mexico has raised concerns about the housing provided by some employers to SAWP workers. As a result of current and previous concerns, growers applying for SAWP workers should be aware of the following changes in effect:

- BCAC has limited the number of inspections that some inspectors are approved to complete. See the list of qualified, available housing inspectors below.
- Photographs of SAWP accommodations are required as part of the housing inspection. BCAC will provide an "inspected housing" certificate for each accommodation. More changes to the inspection process are likely.
- Travel trailers may no longer be used for SAWP housing. For information on ATCO-type trailers that meet SAWP requirements, contact BCFGGA business member Kiliad Industrial - Russ Schartner at [250-575-5310](tel:250-575-5310).

Also, the turn around time on application is getting longer, so it is recommended to send in your SAWP application 10-12 weeks in advance.

Inspector	Location	Phone
Keith Suftin	Kelowna	250-317-3349
Brad Pears	Kelowna	250-717-6434
Bob Hamm	Kelowna	250-470-8467
Barry Chickloski	Penticton	250-490-1118
Hugh Cairns	Kelowna	250-808-5777
Mike Bradshaw	Kelowna	250-870-8340
George Giannotti	Summerland	250-809-6804
Craig Hostland	Kelowna	250-862-6400

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

Fair Wage Commission

Short timeframe for response

Do you have a view to share on how B.C. can move forward to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour?

BCFGA is encouraging growers (We Need You!) to submit your written comments to the Fair Wage Commission please respond by email to FWC@gov.bc.ca. All submissions must be provided as a Word document or PDF and are limited in length to five pages. These should be received no later than December 7, 2017.

The Fair Wages Commission was established in October 2017 to work independently to advise government on how to move towards a \$15/hour minimum wage with increases that are regularly measured and predictable. [Here is the Fair Wages Commission website](#).

The Commission is committed to three main tasks:

- 1. The Fair Wages Commission will first develop recommendations for a pathway forward to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour and on a process for how the minimum wage should be regularly reviewed and increased once \$15/hour is achieved.**

- a. BCFGA would like to see the \$15 per hour minimum wage implemented in steps no more than 3 times the general rate of inflation.*
- b. BCFGA recommends that the increase be made on January 1 (previously increases were scheduled for September 15, which is the middle of harvest and the busiest time of year for many farm operations). We suggest that the first*

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

Date	Meeting	Attending for the BCFGAs
Nov. 28 7pm-9pm	BCFGA South Regional AGM	Place: Penticton Trade and Convention Centre, 273 Power St, Penticton
Nov. 30 7pm-9pm	BCFGA North Regional AGM	Place: Ramada Kelowna Hotel, 2170 Harvey Ave, Kelowna
Dec. 14-15	Canada-Mexico SAWP Annual Meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
Dec. 4	BCFGA Executive	
February 15-16	BCFGA Annual Convention	Place: Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna

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. • Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
---	--

Job Opportunity
 Summerland Varieties Corporation



SVC is looking for an Assistant Orchard Manager.

The Assistant Orchard Manager reports directly to the Orchard Manager. As the Assistant Orchard Manager, you will ensure that all orchard related functions are executed effectively and assist in the management of seasonal employees. This is a permanent full-time position working out of our office at the Summerland Research and Development Centre in Summerland, BC. Summerland Varieties Corp. (SVC) offers a competitive salary and benefits package along with in-house training and an energetic and supportive work environment.

For more information on how to apply, [here is the link](#).