

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



October 8, 2019

Public Engagement - ALR Review

The initiative is called "Supporting Farmers"

The Ministry of Agriculture is holding a public consultation on the ALR. The sessions are to discuss how the province of B.C. can encourage farming and protect BC's farmland. The Ministry is asking for your insight and opinions on how to best:

- Support farmers and ranchers in the ALR to expand and diversify their businesses;
- Help new or young farmers become established on the land and in business; and,
- Ensure there is flexibility for residential options while prioritizing agriculture in the ALR.

A forum is being held in Kelowna (there is also a meeting in Cranbrook if you prefer):

Time: 10 am to 2:30 pm

Date: Thursday, Oct. 10

Place: [5505 Airport Way - Kelowna, BC](#)

Here is the [website for event registration and online feedback](#)

SAWP

Service Canada is now accepting LMIA applications for April 2020 arrivals

Starting July 15, 2019, Service Canada began accepting SAWP LMIA applications for arrival dates between January and March 2020. However, employers may now begin submitting LMIAs for April 2020 arrivals as well.

Transfer Workers

Employers who have transfer workers assisting them with their apple harvest, please remember to sign the Employment Contract and get your transfer workers to sign the contract as well.

Please keep a copy of the contract on file:

[2019 Mexico Employment Contract](#)

[2019 Caribbean Employment Contract](#)

Questions of the week

What is happening with biometrics for 2020?

For Caribbean workers returning in 2020, biometrics were obtained in 2019 and are valid for 10 years. New workers will need to get biometrics, but no delays are expected.

For about 50 % of Mexico SAWP workers returning, biometrics of the workers were obtained in 2019 and are valid for 10 years. For the 50% of workers who 'pre-registered' early to come to Canada, biometrics were not needed for 2019 - however, these workers will require biometrics for 2020. Employers should ensure that any returning workers without Work Permits get biometrics done when they return to Mexico - **before December 14, 2019.**

For the returning Mexican workers who do not yet have biometrics, there is a similar early registration process to get Biometrics in place for Work Permits:

[English instructions for returning workers to get biometrics upon return to Mexico](#)

[Spanish instructions for returning workers to get biometrics upon return to Mexico](#)

Can I purchase return airfare for my SAWP worker with a connection through another foreign country, for example, the States?

No, return airfare must be direct from Canada to the foreign worker's home country without any connecting flights through the United States.

Federal Election October 21

Be Informed and Vote - Attend an All Candidates Forum

The BCFGA is partnering with Chambers of Commerce to present All Candidates Forums in Vernon (October 8), Penticton (October 10) and Kelowna (October 16) - see the calendar below for more information on location, times and registration requirements.

Here are some election links:

[CFA election platform summaries](#)

Programs of Interest

Deadlines to apply is Nov. 30 (unless otherwise noted)

- ★ Light Reflecting Materials [Program](#).
- ★ 2020 Replant Program [Replant applications](#)
- ★ [Tree Fruit Production Insurance](#) Application and Payment.
- ★ BCFGA Bursaries (deadline October 31, 2019) [Two BCFGA bursaries](#)
- ★ [AgriStability Forms](#) T1273 or Statement A Corporations (September 30, 2019)

The BCFGA has received no completed bursary applications as of October 8 2019, so your son or daughter stand a good chance of getting a \$1,000 Bursary if they spend 15 minutes filling out the Bursary application and sending it and their transcript into us before October 31.

BCFGA Summer Labour Project - 2019

Make sure to thank your workers and invite them back!

The BCFGA Summer Labour Project is now complete. Thanks to Ron Forrest for providing worker orientation and training for Canadian and International workers.

Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund (TFC)


Apply any time

The TFC funding is provided by the Province of BC. Tree fruit growers and tree fruit organizations may make applications to the TFC for marketing, research and infrastructure planning purposes. Application intake is continuous. Information on the TFC is available at [BCFGA.com](#), and call Glen Lucas at the BCFGA to obtain assistance in preparing applications and follow-up assistance when projects are implemented.

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

Date	Meeting	Details
Oct 8	Vernon All Candidates Meeting *	6:30 - 7:30 pm, Vernon Performing Arts Centre
Oct 10	Penticton All Candidates Meeting *	6:30 - 8:30 pm, Penticton Seniors Centre
Oct 10	ALR public forum	Registration required
Oct 16	Kelowna All Candidates Meeting *	7 - 9 am, Coast Capri registration required
Oct 16	World Food Day	
Oct 21	Federal Election	
Oct 22-23	Annual Review, Mexico SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas attending
Oct 28-29	BCAC Agriculture Day	Pinder Dhaliwal, Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas attending
Nov 5	BCFGA Board meeting	
Nov 5-6	BCFGA Regional Annual Meetings	Notice will be delivered in a few days
Nov 26-28	Annual Review, Caribbean SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas attending
Dec 2	Agriculture Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN) Kelowna workshop	More information to come.

* The BCFGa partners with local Chambers of Commerce to sponsor all candidates meetings. We encourage growers to attend. The Penticton and Kelowna meetings require registration.

 BCFGa 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, Monday - Thursday, local 1. ● Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. ● Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, part-time, local 3. ● Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, part-time, 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 250-488-0363
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
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