

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

October 20, 2017



Federal Government reconsiders tax proposals

Taking “a Step Back”

The federal Finance Minister is reconsidering some of the controversial tax proposals that would have increased taxes on capital gains and ‘passive income’. The proposals were targeted at *incorporated* companies, and seemed to unintentionally sideswipe family farm corporations.

CBC news reported,

- *The [dropped] proposal would have made it more difficult for farmers and other business owners to pass on their businesses to their children.*
- *... the government also ditched another proposed measure that would have had a negative impact on the intergenerational transfer of family businesses.*
- *Morneau also announced ... that he will scale back a proposal to crack down on passive investment income, which was one of the most contentious elements of his plan. [Passive income is a wage paid by the company to a shareholder or relative of a shareholder who is not actively and entirely engaged in the company operation].*

The BCFGGA belongs to national organizations that assessed the proposed changes and engaged in an active lobby effort against the proposals, including

- the Canadian Horticultural Council,
- the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and
- the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (though membership in the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce).

All three of these national organizations further banded together to form the Coalition of Small Business Tax Fairness.

At BCFGGA, Fred Steele met with Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay on September 5 and presented information on the negative impact of the proposals on incorporated farms. BCFGGA also encouraged members to directly contact their MP.

The BCFGGA expresses its thanks to MP Stephen Fuhr for arranging the meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and thanks all Okanagan MPs for speaking out on this important issue. For growers who contacted their MP about this important issue, your voice was heard!

2018/19 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program

Application deadline looms

The 2018 Replant Program deadline is **November 15, 2017**. [Information may be viewed on the BCFGGA website.](#)

SAWP Turnaround Time

Apply 3 months ahead!

The delay in government processing of SAWP applications is now extending towards 3 months. BCFGAs and other provincial representatives will be asking the federal government to shorten the processing time. Your representatives will also be asking the federal government that replacement workers be approved under the initial application and not require a second application. If you have a concern about SAWP processing that you would like to see changed, please let us know by contacting BCFGAs' Pinder Dhaliwal or Glen Lucas.

With regard to the lengthy SAWP processing, currently growers must advertise for workers and these ads must be placed no more than 3 months before workers arrive. Growers who do not have adequate local workers should consider applying as far in advance as possible in order to ensure that any delays do not disrupt farm operations - in other words, apply up to three months before the workers arrive. If your workers are arriving on March 1, sending in an application at the start of December is advisable.

When applying for the SAWP, growers name the Caribbean "source country" or Mexico on the Labour Market Impact Assessment.

The options for Caribbean source countries are, in alphabetical order:

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Country Population (2015 est)	Percentage of total Caribbean SAWP pop.	Contact	Phone
Antigua and Barbuda	93,900	2%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Barbados	287,500	6%	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997
Dominica	72,700	1%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Grenada	107,900	2%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Jamaica	2,790,200	55%	Donna Adams	250-869-6288
St. Kitts and Nevis	55,400	1%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Lucia	183,800	4%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Vincent and Grenadines	107,900	2%	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Trinidad and Tobago	1,332,700	26%	Eric Poliah	epoliah@ttconsulatellb.com

*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.

Celebrating 30 years in local manufacturing

Waycon is a local manufacturer that builds custom equipment, recently for cherry packing lines. Waycon invites you to an open house at their facility to celebrate and enjoy Waycon hospitality. The manufacturing facility is located at 275 Waterloo Ave, Penticton, B.C. Drop in anytime Friday, October 27, 2017, between 2-7 pm (highlight is the cake cutting about 2:15 pm) to see the facility and talk to staff.

If you can attend please RSVP on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/356494801472732/> or email tara@waycon.net

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

Date	Meeting	Attending for the BCFGAs
Oct. 23	BC-Caribbean Regional SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct. 25	BCTFC Annual Meeting	
Oct. 27	SIR Board Planning Session	Walter Makepeace, Amarjit Lalli, David Dobernigg, Glen Lucas
Oct. 30	BCFGA Crop Protection Committee (9-noon)	Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct. 30	BCFGA Labour Committee (1-3 pm)	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Nov. 7	BCAC Agriculture Day	
Nov. 14	BCFGA Executive	
Nov. 19-25	Caribbean SAWP Annual Review	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
Nov. 28	BCFGA South Regional AGM	
Nov. 30	BCFGA North Regional AGM	
Dec. 4	BCFGA Executive	
February 15-16	BCFGA Annual Convention	

BCFGA Office 250-762-5226

Toll free -1-800-619-9022



- Brenda Jorde, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.
- Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.
- Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.