

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

October 6, 2017



### Caribbean SAWP Update

#### Eager to expand participation

Caribbean countries also participate in the SAWP. Many growers employ Jamaican workers, as the Jamaican Liaison Services are located in Kelowna, which enhances communication, which many growers and employees appreciate.

Other Caribbean countries are also eager to expand the number of their citizens on the program - the employment income is genuinely appreciated by the employees and the Caribbean country of origin.

BCFGA encourages growers to look at all options for hiring workers, and of course remembering that there is an obligation to seek Canadian workers before foreign workers. We have met with consular officials and Ministers of Labour from Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia in the past 2 years, as officials travel to the Okanagan to seek to promote the program. The tiny Caribbean countries of Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis were hit by hurricanes in the past few months and their citizens and governments would certainly be thankful for employment opportunities in SAWP. Also, St. Lucia has expressed interest in having growers interview workers in the St. Lucia prior to hiring.

For Caribbean SAWP workers, flights are comparably priced and often less costly than the Mexico City - Kelowna flight. When applying for the Caribbean SAWP, growers name the Caribbean “source country” on the Labour Market Impact Assessment. These countries are all anxious to expand their program in Canada. The options for Caribbean source countries are, in alphabetical order:

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Country Population (2015 est)	SAWP workers in Canada, (average 2005-2009)	Contact	Phone
Antigua and Barbuda	93,900	9	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Barbados	287,500	428	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997
Dominica	72,700		Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Grenada	107,900	94	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Jamaica	2,790,200	6,821	Donna Adams	250-869-6288

St. Kitts and Nevis	55,400	29	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Lucia	183,800	234	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Vincent and Grenadines	107,900	291	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Trinidad and Tobago	1,332,700	2,040	Gaston Thongs	416-435-7048

\*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.

## Strangers on Your Farm

### It is your right to request identification of government regulators

There have been occasional cases of activists impersonating government personnel to gain access to farm properties.

Some government agencies have authority to inspect your farm. For example, if you employ workers in Mexico or Caribbean SAWP, then Service Canada's Integrity Services Division and Consular employees may enter your farm premises. It is your right to request identification prior to allowing access to the farm.

All government personnel will have government-issued identification cards. It is recommended that in addition to viewing and reading the Government Employee Identification Card, growers should obtain the business card of government visitors.

## Reminders

### 2018/19 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program

Application deadline is in 6 weeks

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

### Minimum Wage change

New rates start September 15


Minimum wage increased from \$10.85 per hour to \$11.35 per hour on September 15. Vacation pay (minimum 4%) is also paid in addition to the base hourly wage.

Piece rates are now updated on the [summary of employment standards that regulate pay](#). The piece rate for apples increases from \$18.06 to **\$18.89** per bin. Piece rates include vacation pay.

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

Date	Meeting	Attending for the BCFGA
Oct. 15	Rob Dawson - Celebration of Life (2 pm, Victory Hall, 427 - 7th Ave, Keremeos)	
Oct. 16	BC-Caribbean Regional SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct. 25	BCTFC Annual Meeting	

Oct. 27	SIR Board Planning Session	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	
Jan. 25-26	BCFGA Annual Convention	

<p>BCFGA Office 250-762-5226</p> <p>Toll free -1-800-619-9022</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brenda Jorde, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.</li> <li>• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.</li> <li>• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.</li> </ul>
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