



# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

September 1, 2017

### Rob Dawson

#### In Memoriam

Longtime BCFGA member and industry leader Rob Dawson passed away suddenly on August 26 of a heart attack. A memorial service is being planned for mid-October.

### BCFGA Golden Apple Award

#### Nominations open

Nominations are open for the prestigious Golden Apple Award. Nominations for the 2017 season may be forwarded to Charlotte Leaming ([cleaming@bctree.com](mailto:cleaming@bctree.com)) or Carl Withler ([Carl.Withler@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carl.Withler@gov.bc.ca)). If you know of a deserving neighbour or friend to nominate, contact Carl or Charlotte with their name and address.

### 2018 Replant Program

#### Application deadline is November 15, 2017

The 2018 Replant Program is now open for applications. [Information may be viewed on the BCFGA website.](#)

### 2017 Replant Program

#### Update

Inspections of 2017 replant projects have started. The BCFGA has formalized a request for additional funds so that waitlisted applications may be funded.

### Minimum Wage change

#### Heads up for September 15

Minimum wage increases from \$10.85 per hour to \$11.35 per hour on September 15 - here is the [original notice](#). Vacation pay (minimum 4%) is also paid on top of the hourly wage. Piece rates will also increase on September 15, although industry previously requested that there be no change in piece rates. Here is a [summary of employment standards that regulate pay](#), but the the new piecework rates are not yet included in this document as of date of this newsletter date.

## **Drought**

### **Level 3 declared**

Despite the recent Spring flooding in the Okanagan, a drought alert level 3 has been declared for the area by the province. At this level, "very dry conditions" could have "serious ecosystem or socioeconomic impacts". Be water wise.

## **BCFGA Executive Meeting report**

### **August 29 meeting**

#### New Members

New business associate (non-voting) members were approved. Welcome to

- Kiliad Industrial Ltd
- Pro Ag Canada

#### Appointments and Nominations

The BCFGa shortlisted nominees for the Zone 1 organic representative on the SIR Board.

#### Financial

Quarterly financial statements were reviewed and approved.

#### Flood Update: situation and financial assistance

- BCFGa provided assistance in preparing an appeal to the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund for an orchardist impacted by the Spring flooding.

#### BCAC Update

Reg Ens, Executive Director of the BC Agriculture Council provided an update on

- The new provincial government.
- Labour.
- The BCAC Public trust initiative.

#### Agreements

The Executive approved two agreements:

- A one-year extension of the Replant Administration agreement, which provided some improvements in administration fees (specifically, supplementary funds will be paid administration fee, and inspection expenses will be reimbursed).
- Tree Fruit Post and Wire Systems Manual - BCFGa will engage a BC Ministry of Agriculture approved contractor to complete an updated manual.

#### Fall Meeting Dates

Many meetings are scheduled for the Fall and dates and arrangements were reviewed by the Executive.

## **Proposed Income Tax Rules**

### **Income Splitting Implications**


The federal Minister of Finance is coming under fire for rules proposed to limit tax breaks for the ultra rich - unfortunately impacting hard-working and not ultrarich farmers. Here is an

[interesting Financial Post article](#):

[Here is the Canadian Horticultural Council position](#). BCFGa has supported this position with a letter to Stephen Fuhr, MP for Kelowna-Lake Country and other MPs.

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

Date	Meeting	
Sept. 5-7	Federal Liberal Caucus, Kelowna	
Sept. 19	SAWP Housing Standards review	Pinder Dhaliwal
Oct. 6	SIR Board Planning Session	
Oct. 23-25	Mexico SAWP Annual Review Meeting	
Oct. 25	BCTFC Annual Meeting	
Oct. 30	BCFGA Crop Protection Committee	
Nov. 3	BCFGA Labour Committee	
Nov. 7	BCAC Agriculture Day	
Nov. 14	BCFGA Executive	
Nov. 16	BCFGA Bylaw Review	
Nov 19-25	Caribbean SAWP Annual Review Meeting	
November 28	BCFGA South Regional AGM	
November 30	BCFGA North Regional AGM	
December 4	BCFGA Executive	
January 25-26	BCFGA Annual Convention	

<p>BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226 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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**The BCFGa Labour Orientation and Safety Program**

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