

**BC Fruit Growers' Association
News Flash**

June 23, 2015



**Breaking News
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Social Insurance Numbers for SAWP workers available on-farm

Ron Cannan and Dan Albas have worked to find a solution to the Social Insurance Number problem for SAWP workers to obtain a SIN number. A new approach was required, following a change from the previous automatic assignment of a SIN number when the worker enters Canada.

The current issue resulted from a system change at CBSA. In previous years at the port of entry, the Canadian Border Services Agency (typically Vancouver Airport) had the ability to print multiple copies of some forms, which allowed workers to use an extra copy of the form to obtain a SIN at the time of entry. A change in computer/security systems was implemented and resulted in a change (no multiple copies) that prevented SAWP workers from obtaining their SIN at the port of entry.

Ron Cannan and Dan Albas have resolved the issue for this year, and are working on a longer term solution too. For this year, if growers who do not have convenient access to a local Service Canada office (Penticton and Kelowna), Service Canada will send their staff to the farm location to complete the paperwork to obtain a SIN number for SAWP workers.

1. Service Canada has committed to visit the farms to sign up SAWP workers for their SIN numbers, for those farms that cannot conveniently access a local Service Canada office.
2. Send your MP's office the farm locations including the worksite's address/location, contact telephone number and the number of workers involved issue and the MP will forward your information and request to Service Canada.
3. Growers may still choose to take the workers to the local Service Canada office to obtain SIN numbers for SAWP workers, if that is convenient.

To submit the request for Service Canada to contact you regarding your farm, please forward your email to your appropriate Member of Parliament below;

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