

**BC Fruit Growers' Association  
129<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Minutes  
February 15-16, 2018, Kelowna, BC**

**Present:**

Chair of Session, Fred Steele, President, BCFG  
Seven other BCFG Executive members  
Thirteen delegates, representing two BCFG Regions  
BCFG members, approximately 250 growers and guests  
Recording Secretary: Glen Lucas and Bunvir Nijjer

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1. Introduction and Welcome

BCFG President and Chair of the meeting, Fred Steele, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Delegates, members, guests, and media were welcomed.

Fred Steele introduced Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran for the official welcome.

Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran welcomed the attendees and congratulated BCFG for its 129 years of serving the Tree Fruit Industry. The following items were discussed:

- The TFWH bylaw
- Integrated water supply plan for agriculture

In appreciation of Mayor Colin Basran's attendance, a gift of \$75 to the Kelowna Food Bank was presented.

Remembrance: a moment of silence was held for members who passed away during the year.

Peter Simonsen Chaired.

2. Credentials Report

BCFG General Manager, Glen Lucas, read the official notice of meeting. The credential report was presented:

**South**

1. Mohinder Dhaliwal
2. Charanjit Ghuman
3. Kiranpreet Gill
4. Balwinder Sidhu
5. Baljinder Gill
6. Sukhvir Dhindsa

**North**

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. Jeet Dukhia
3. Amarjit Lalli
4. Joginder Dhand
5. Balwinder Khun Khun
6. Karmjit Gill
7. Gurmail Dhillion
8. Jora Dhaliwal

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya**  
**That the Credential Report be approved.**  
**Carried.**

3. Adoption of Meeting Guidelines  
The agenda and meeting guidelines were reviewed.

**Moved/Seconded- Karmjit Gill/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**To approve the agenda.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**  
**That the meeting guidelines be adopted as presented.**  
**Carried.**

4. Resolution Committee Report

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya**  
**To receive the Status Report on the 2017 resolutions.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**  
**To receive the Late Resolution Policy**

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/Karmjit Gill**  
**That the Late Resolutions be circulated to the members by the end of today's meeting.**  
**Carried.**

5. Approval of Election Process  
The election process of the 2018 BCFGAs Board was reviewed.

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Karmjit Gill**  
**That the election process be approved as presented.**  
**Carried.**

6. Adoption of Minutes

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To approve the minutes of the 128th Annual Meeting, February 2-3, 2017, as circulated.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To approve the minutes of the Special General Meeting, November 16, 2017, as circulated.**  
**Carried.**

## 7. Board of Directors Report

President Fred Steele presented the BCFGAs Executive report, highlighting the key priorities and on-going activities:

- Replant Program
- Agricultural Policy Framework (now known as Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
- Labour program
- New BC Societies Act
- Tax changes proposed by the Federal Government
- Rejuvenation program.

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**To receive the President’s Report.**  
**Carried.**

### Resolution 1 – Appreciation

**Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**Carried unanimously.**

### Resolution 2 – Municipal Support for Tree fruit Industry Priorities

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**  
**Carried unanimously.**

## 8. Financial Statements and Auditor

The auditor’s opinion on the financial statements was presented by Michelle Underwood, BDO auditor. The financial statements were presented by Glen Lucas.

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To approve the audited financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2018**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**To appoint BDO as the auditor for the period ending October 31, 2018.**  
**Carried.**

## 9. General Manager’s Report, Honorarium Committee Report and Budget

Glen Lucas presented the General Manager’s report and the Honorarium Committee report.

**Moved/Seconded – Karmjit Gill / Amarjit Lalli**  
**To receive the General Manager’s report.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Jora Dhaliwal  
To approve the Honorarium Committee report.  
Carried.**

The delegates reviewed the budget for 2018.  
**Moved/Seconded – Charanjit Ghuman/ Karmjit Gill  
To approve the 2017 Budget.  
Carried.**

10. Corporate Secretary Report

**Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/Amarjit Lalli  
To receive the Corporate Secretary Report.  
Carried.**

Resolution 43- Number of BCFGAs Information Sessions

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

**Sukhdev Goraya chaired.**

11. Member Services Report

Glen Lucas and Tony Nijjar presented the Members Services Committee report.

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/ Amarjit Lalli  
To receive the Member Services report.  
Carried.**

Resolution 10- Local Government Hiring  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

Resolution 12- Strengthen Farm Practices Act and Educate Neighbours  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

Resolution 34- Work With the BC Cherry Association  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

**Sukhdeep Brar chaired.**

12. Environment and Food Safety, Water Sustainability Act

The Water and Environment Committee report was presented to the members. Glen Lucas provided an update on the Water Sustainability Act.

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Jora Dhaliwal**  
**To receive the Water and Environment Report.**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 22- Adequate, Affordable and Reliable Water  
**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 23- Funding to Expand Water Supply Systems  
**Moved/Seconded- Karmjit Gill/ Charanjit Ghuman**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 24- Carbon Credits  
**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Karmjit Gill**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 25- Environmental Farm Plan Funding  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Balwinder Khun Khun**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 38- Common Sense Food Safety  
**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**  
**Carried.**

Bhupinder Dhaliwal chaired.

### 13. Replant Program

Carl Withler provided an update on the 2017/2018 Replant Program.

**Moved/Seconded- Karmjit Gill/ Balwinder Khun Khun**  
**To to receive the Replant Program update.**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 3-Replant Grant for Soft Fruit  
**Moved/Seconded- Mohinder Dhaliwal/ Balwinder Khun Khun**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 4- Replant Waitlist Eligibility In Following Year  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Tarsem Goraya**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 5- Long-term Replant Funding  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 6- Increase Replant Grant to Reflect Inflation  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 7- Re-Introduce Transition Production Assistance Program

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**

**Carried.**

Resolution 8- National Packinghouse Infrastructure and 'Bare Land' Program

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**

**Carried.**

14. Crop Protection, SIR

Peter Simonsen presented the Crop Protection report.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/Charanjit Ghuman**

**To receive the Crop Protection Report.**

**Carried.**

Melissa Tesche, General Manager of Sterile Insect Release (SIR) program provided an update on the new DAS program and other on-going activities. It was noted that bin movement is emerging as an issue for transfer of ACMs, the concern is particularly amongst private packers.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/Charanjit Ghuman**

**To receive the SIR Report.**

**Carried.**

Resolution 17- Grower Working Group on Invasive Pests

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**

**Carried.**

Resolution 18- Expand mandare of SIR to cover invasive pests

**Moved/Seconded- Balwinder Khun Khun/ Karmjit Gill**

**Carried.**

Resolution 19- Urban Deer Cull

**Moved/Seconded- Karmjit Gill/ Balwinder Khun Khun**

**Carried.**

Resolution 20- Availability of Product to Reduce Resistance of Pests to Treatments

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Tarsem Goraya**

**Carried.**

Resolution 21- Starling Control

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**

**Carried.**

Resolution 32- Invasive Pest Research Funding

**Moved/Seconded- Charanjit Ghuman/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**

**Carried.**

15. BC AgriStability Enhancement

Dalraj Boparai, AgriStability Verifer provided an presentation on the BC Agristability Enhancement program.

Resolution 9- Affordable Hail Insurance Premiums

**Moved/Seconded- Tarsem Goraya/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Karmjit Gill/ Amarjit Lalli  
To adjourn the meeting to 8:00 am the next day.  
Carried.**

16. Reconvene

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by BCFGAs Board Sukhdeep Brar..

It was reported that the following BCFGAs recognition awards were announced the previous evening:

- David Zirnhelt, Life Member;
- Wayne Moore from Castanet, Press Award;
- BCFGAs President Fred Steele was presented with a framed watercolour painting for his 4 years of service as a President and 3 years of service as a the Vice-President for the BC Fruit Growers Association.

17. Credentials Report

BCFGAs Executive, Peter Simonsen read the official notice of meeting.

The credential report was presented for the second day of the meeting:

**South**

1. Mohinder Dhaliwal
2. Charanjit Ghuman
3. Kiranpreet Gill
4. Balwinder Sidhu
5. Baljinder Gill
6. Michael Sidhu
7. Sukhvir Dhindsa

**North**

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. Jeet Dukhia
3. Amarjit Lalli
4. Joginder Dhand
5. Balwinder Khun Khun
6. Karmjit Gill
7. Gurmail Dhillion
8. Jora Dhaliwal

**Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/ Jeet Dukhia  
That the Credential Report be approved.  
Carried.**

18. BCFGAs Companies Panel

Sean Beirnes, the General Manager of Summerland Varieties Corp (SVC) presented updates on SVC.

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To receive the SVC Report.**  
**Carried.**

Glen Lucas, BCFGAs General Manager, provided an update on projects administered under the other BCFGAs Company, BCFGAs Research and Development Orchard Ltd.

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/Amarjit**  
**To receive the BCFGAs R&D Orchard Ltd. Report.**

Resolution 45- Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC) Governance Resolution  
**Proponent withdrew this resolution.**

Resolution 46- Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC)- Contractual Obligations and Independent Governance  
**Proponent withdrew this resolution.**

Resolution 35- Obtain New Varieties  
**Moved/Seconded- Mohinder Dhaliwal/ Charanjit Ghuman**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 36- Develop New Club Varieties  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 39- Test Orchard Lease Term  
**Moved/Seconded- Balwinder Khun Khun/ Charanjit Ghuman**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 40- SVC Board Composition  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 41- Guidelines for Resolving Disputes Between SVC and Growers  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Joginder Dhand**  
**Carried.**

19. Industry Updates Panel

Rebecca Lee, Executive Director of Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) provided an update.

Many growers have noted abnormal delays at Service Canada in processing LMIAs and audits therefore it was agreed to bring a late resolution from the floor that the BCFGAs, BACA, WALI, CHC and CFA work urgently and give the uppermost priority to resolve the delays caused in processing SAWP audits and SAWP applications.



**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya**  
**To receive the Canadian Horticultural Council report.**  
**Carried.**

Sukhpaul Bal, Director of BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) and Danielle Synotte, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement provided an update.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**To receive the BC Agriculture Council report.**  
**Carried.**

Tony Nijjar chaired.  
11:10 am.

## 20. Labour and Safety

Bupinder Dhaliwal presented the Labour report.

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/Amarjit Lalli**  
**To receive the Labour Committee Report.**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 11- Minimum Wage- Helping the Agriculture Sector Adjust  
**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 13- Protect Worker Housing  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**  
**Carried.**

Resolution 26- Increase SAWP Housing Deduction  
**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**Carried.**

## 21. President's Report

Fred Steele presented the President's Report and thanked staff, Board, members and Ag. Associations that supported him during his presidency.

**Moved/Seconded- Tarsem Goraya/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To receive the President's report.**  
**Carried.**

Fred Steele chaired.

## 22. Federal Greetings

Fred Steele introduced Stephen Fuhr MP, Kelowna- Lake Country.

Stephen Fuhr MP, Kelowna- Lake Country addressed the membership and responded to member comments on programs.

Fred Steele was thanked for his services as a the President of the BCFGa and MP Fuhr presented him with a plaque on behalf the Federal government.

It was noted the deadline to register for voting is 12:30pm.

The meeting resumed after lunch at 1 pm.

### 23. Provincial Greetings

Fred Steele introduced the Honorable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Lana Popham addressed the membership and announced a \$5 million Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund for research, marketing and infrastructure.

Fred Steele was thanked for his services as a the President of the BCFGa and wished a happy retirement on behalf of the Provincial government.

### 24. Election Process

Glen Lucas chaired the election of the BCFGa Board.

Glen Lucas explained the election process and the new multi-year terms of the positions to be elected.

### 25. Appointment of Election Officers to count the votes

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman  
To appoint Danielle Synotte and Carl Withler as election officers.  
Carried.**

In each position, where there was already a nomination, members were asked if they wished to open the floor for further nominations. If more than one candidate was nominated, the nominees were provided an opportunity to speak.

### 26. Election of BCFGa President

The floor was not opened to further nominations. Jeet Dukhia and Bhupinder Dhaliwal were nominated.

A ballot was held.

**Bhupinder Dhaliwal was elected BCFGa President.**

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Madeleine van Roehoudt  
To destroy the ballots.  
Carried.**

### 27. Vice President

Parmjit Patara and Rana Sidhu withdrew their names from the nominations for the Vice-President. The floor was not opened to further nominations.

**Peter Simonsen was declared BCFGAs Vice-President by acclamation.**

28. Resolutions

During the counting of ballots, the following resolutions were considered.

Resolution 42- Budwood Sales

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/ Mohinder Dhaliwal  
Carried.**

Resolution 44- SVC Minutes

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/ Jeet Dukhia  
Defeated.**

Resolution 37- Work With BC Tree Fruit Cooperative on New Varieties

**Moved/Seconded - Balwinder Khun Khun/ Karmjit Gill  
Carried.**

Resolution 27- Grants to Employers of Workers from High- Unemployment Groups

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya  
Carried.**

Resolution 14- Taxation of Capital Gains Exemption

**Moved/Seconded - Charanjit Ghuman/ Kiranpreet Gill  
Carried.**

30. North District Council

There was no motion to open the floor to further nominations.

Jora Dhaliwal, David Dobernigg, Karmjit Gill, Sukhdev Goraya, Surjit Nagra and Tony Nijjar were nominated for three positions from the North Okanagan on the Board of Directors.

A ballot was held.

**Karmjit Gill was declared a member of the Board for two year term, and David Dobernigg and Sukhdev Goraya were declared members of the Board were one year term.**

**Moved/Seconded- Madeleine van Roehoudt/ Amarjit Lalli**

**To destroy the ballots.  
Carried.**

31. South District Council

There was no motion to open the floor to further nominations.

Ravinder Bains, Sukhdeep Brar, Emerson Khosa and David Machial were nominated.

A ballot was held.

While the votes were being tallied, door prizes sponsored by Summerland Varieties Corp. were given out to the members.

**David Machial and Sukhdeep Brar were declared members of the Board for two year terms and Ravinder Bains was declared a member of the Board for one year term.**

**Moved/Seconded- Madeleine van Roechoedt/ Amarjit Lalli  
To destroy the ballots.**

**Carried.**

32. Resolutions reconvened

Resolution 28- Worker Housing Bylaws

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**

**Carried.**

Resolution 29- Worker Housing Bylaw Standard

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Karmjit Gill**

**Carried.**

Resolution 30- SAWP Funding and Communication with Local COnsulate  
Representatives

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/ Tarsem Goraya**

**Carried.**

Resolution 31- SAWP Trusted Employer

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman**

**Carried.**

Resolution 15- Trade Protections for the Canadian Apple Industry

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Mohinder Dhaliwal**

**Carried.**

Resolution 16- Funding for Invasive Pests and the National PLant and Animal Health  
Strategy

**Moved/Seconded - Kiranpreet Gill/ Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

Resolution 33- Columbia River Treaty Renewal- Impact on BC Agriculture

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

33. Late Resolutions.

Late Resolution #1- Farm Industry Review Board Fees

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya**

**To raise the motion to the floor.**

**Carried.**

**The resolution was voted on and**

**Carried.**

Late Resolution #2- SVC Governance

**Proponent withdrew this late resolution.**

Late Resolution #3-Emergency Financial Aid

**Moved/Seconded - Karmjit Gill/ Jeet Dukhia**

**To raise the motion to the floor**

**Carried.**

**The resolution was voted on and**

**Carried.**

Late Resolution #4-Delays in Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/ Amarjit Lalli**

**To raise the motion to the floor**

**Carried.**

**The resolution was voted on and**

**Carried.**

Late Resolution #5- Countries that provide workers to the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Charanjit Ghuman**

**To raise the motion to the floor**

**Carried.**

**The resolution was voted on and**

**Carried.**

32. Adjournment, 3:30 p.m.

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya**

**That the 129th BCFGAs Annual Convention be adjourned.**

**Carried.**