

**BC Fruit Growers' Association
131st Annual Convention Minutes
February 11-12, 2020, Kelowna, BC**

Present:

Chair of Session, Pinder Dhaliwal, President, BCFG
Six other BCFG Board members
Thirteen delegates, representing two BCFG Regions
BCFG members, approximately 70 growers and guests
Recording Secretary: Glen Lucas and Bunvir Nijjer

1. Introduction and Welcome

BCFG President and Chair of the meeting, Pinder Dhaliwal, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Delegates, members, guests, and media were welcomed.

Pinder Dhaliwal introduced Kelowna City Mayor Colin Basran for the official welcome.

Kelowna Mayor Basran welcomed the attendees and congratulated BCFG for its 130 years of serving the Tree Fruit Industry. Mayor Basran noted the \$900 million economic activity generated by the sector and the associated 1,500 supply chain jobs. The Mayor noted the outstanding late season cherries and high quality, high density apple crops, as well as the environmentally friendly way that apples are produced with the Regional Districts' Sterile Insect Release Program to control Codling Moth. He noted the high-tech contribution of SunRype and the 131 years the industry has contributed to the Okanagan and BC economy.

In appreciation of City Councillor Frank Reghr's attendance, a gift of \$150 to the Central Okanagan 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 Vice- President Peter Simonsen, read the official notice of the meeting. The credential report was presented:

South

1. Denise MacDonald
2. Ranbir Kambo
3. Charanjit Ghuman
4. Kiranpreet Gill
5. Katie Sardinha

North

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. Amarjit Lalli
3. Madeleine van Roechoudt
4. Joginder Dhand
5. Tahir Raza
6. Asif Mohammad
7. Penny Gambell
8. Gurinder Gill

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Madeleine van Roechoudt
That the Credential Report be approved.
Carried.**

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

**Moved/Seconded- Penny Gambell/Asif Mohammad
To approve the agenda.
Carried.**

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

4. Resolution Committee Report

**Moved/Seconded – Penny Gambell/Denise MacDonald
To receive the Resolution Committee Report on the 2019 resolutions.
Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/Amarjit Lalli
To receive the Late Resolution Policy**

5. Approval of Election Process
The election process of the 2020 BCFGAs Board was reviewed.

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

6. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Denise MacDonald

To approve the minutes of the 130th Annual Meeting, February 12-13, 2019, as circulated.

Carried.

7. Board of Directors Report

President Pinder Dhaliwal presented the BCFGAs Board report, highlighting the key priorities and on-going activities:

- Government review of ALR;
- Crop Protection:
 - New pest issues emerging
 - ACM
- Information Technology:
 - Crop Tracker
- Government Programs specific to tree fruit sector:
 - Projects funded through the Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund
 - The Replant program

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya

To receive the President’s Report.

Carried.

Late resolution #1- Disastrous 2019 Apple Crop Returns (assistance)

Moved/Seconded Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya

To bring Late resolution #1 to the floor of the convention.

Carried by the requisite to-thirds majority.

To approve Later resolution #1.

Moved/Seconded- Madeleine van Roehoudt/Penny Gambell

Carried

Resolution 1 – Appreciation

Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/Amarjit Lalli

Carried unanimously.

Resolution 2 – Municipal Support for Tree fruit Industry Priorities

Moved/Seconded – Ranbir Kambo/Denise MacDonald

Carried unanimously.

8. Financial Statements and Auditor

The financial statements were presented by Glen Lucas.

Moved/Seconded – Ranbir Kambo/Asif Mohammad

To receive the audited financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2019.

Carried.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya
To appoint BDO as the auditor for the period ending October 31, 2019.
Carried.

9. General Manager's Report and Budget

Glen Lucas presented the General Manager's report and the 2020 budget.

Moved/Seconded – Madeleine van Roechoudt/Penny Gambell
To receive the General Manager's report.
Carried.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya
To approve the 2020 Budget.
Carried.

Resolution 18- Ignite- Pre-Harvest Interval

Moved/Seconded – Madeleine van Roechoudt/Amarjit Lalli
Carried.

Resolution 19-Beleaf Rates for Wooly Apple

Moved/Seconded –Tarsem Goraya/Madeleine van Roechoudt
Carried.

Resolution 20- Expand Mandate of Sterile Insect Release Program

Moved/Seconded –Amarjit Lalli/Denise MacDonald
Carried.

Resolution 21- Efficient and Effective Sterile Insect Release Program

Moved/Seconded –Denise MacDonald/Tarsem Goraya
Carried.

Resolution 28-Immediate Research for Apple Clearwing Moth

Moved/Seconded –Ranbir Kambo/Tarsem Goraya
Carried.

Resolution 29- Control Codling Moth Re-Infestation through Bin Movement

Moved/Seconded –Katie Sardinha/ Charanjit Ghuman
Carried.

10. Crop Protection

David Machial presented the Crop Protection Report.

Moved/Seconded- Ranbir Kambo/Joginder Dhand
To receive the Crop Protection Report.
Carried.

11. SIR

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.

In appreciation of Melissa Tesche's attendance, a gift of \$75 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on her behalf.

3:30 pm.

David Machial chaired.

12. Replant Program

Carl Withler provided an update on the 2019/2020 Replant Program.

In appreciation of Carl Withler's attendance, a gift of \$75 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on his behalf.

13. Financial Programs

Sukhdev Goraya provided an overview of the Financial Programs.

**Moved/Seconded- Ranbir Kambo/Amarjit Lalli
To receive the Financial Programs update.
Carried.**

14. BC AgriStability Enhancement

Dalraj Boparai, AgriStability Specialist provided a presentation on the BC Agristability Enhancement program.

In appreciation of Dalraj Boparai's attendance, a gift of \$75 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on her behalf.

Resolution 4- Equity for Multiple Commodity Producers

**Moved/Seconded-Amarjit Lalli/Denise MacDonald
Carried.**

Resolution 7- Independent Study of the Cherry Production Insurance Program

**Moved/Seconded –Ranbir Kambo/Charanjit Ghuman
Carried.**

Resolution 9- Increase AgriStability Coverage

**Moved/Seconded –Tahir Raza/Tarsem Goraya
Carried.**

Resolution 10- Allow Non-Arm's Length Labour in AgriStability

Moved/Seconded –Tahir Raza/Ranbir Kambo

Carried.

Resolution 11- Insurance and Deductibles for Multi-Year Events

Moved/Seconded –Charanjit Ghuman/Denise MacDonald

Carried.

15. Environment and Food Safety, Water Sustainability Act

The Water and Environment Committee report was presented to the members.

Moved/Seconded - Madeleine van Roechoudt/Penny Gambell

To receive the Water and Environment Report.

Carried.

Resolution 22- Increase Funding for Environmental Farm Plan Program

Moved/Seconded- Ranbir Kambo/Amarjit Lalli

Carried.

Resolution 24- Environmental Farm Plan Program- Equity between Sectors

Moved/Seconded- Charanjit Ghuman/Asif Mohammad

Carried.

Resolution 25- Carbon Credits for Farming

Moved/Seconded-Tahir Raza/Amarjit Lalli

Carried.

Resolution 31- Electric Farm Vehicles

Moved/Seconded- Madeleine van Roechoudt/Katie Sardinha

Carried.

16. Member Services Report

David Dobernigg presented the Members Services Committee report.

Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/Ranbir Kambo

To receive the Member Services report.

Carried.

Resolution 12- Time Change

Amended to “Therefore Be It Resolved that the Provincial government maintains the current bi-annual time change

Moved/Seconded –Madeleine van Roechoudt/ Amarjit Lalli

There was further discussion of the amendment.

Moved- Ranbir Kambo

To table this resolution to next year's meeting.

Carried.

Resolution 16- Exempt Farming from Provincial Sales Tax

Moved/Seconded –Ranbir Kambo/Tahir Raza

Carried.

Resolution 17- Auto Insurance for Farm Vehicles

Moved/Seconded –Denise MacDonald/Tahir Raza

Carried.

Moved/Seconded – Tahir Raza/ Amarjit Lalli

To adjourn the meeting to 8:30 am the next day.

Carried.

17. Reconvene

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 am by BCFGAs Board Member David Dobernigg.

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

- Carl Withler, Award of Merit;
- Peter Toivonen, Life Member;
- Karen Davidson from The Grower, Press Award

18. Credentials Report

BCFGAs General Manager, Glen Lucas read the official notice of meeting.

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

South

1. Denise MacDonald
2. Ranbir Kambo
3. Mohinder Dhaliwal
4. Charanjit Ghuman
5. Kiranpreet Gill
6. Katie Sardinha

North

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. Amarjit Lalli
3. Madeleine van Roechoudt
4. Joginder Dhand
5. Tahir Raza
6. Asif Mohammad
7. Gurinder Gill

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

19. BCFGA Companies Panel

Sean Beirnes, the General Manager of Summerland Varieties Corp (SVC) presented an update to the members. The outgoing SVC Board members David Machial and Ranbir Kambo were thanked for their many years of service.

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Madeleine van Roechoudt
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 –Tarsem Goraya/Amarjit Lalli
To receive the BCFGAs R&D Orchard Ltd. Report.**

20. BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

Steve Brown and Warren Sarafinchan provide an update of the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative.

21. Industry Updates Panel

Reg Ens, Executive Director of BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) provided an update on the BCAC activities and on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

In appreciation of Reg Ens's attendance, a gift of \$75 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on his behalf.

**Sukhdev Goraya chaired.
10:30 am.**

Rebecca Lee, Executive Director of the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) provided an update for the on-going CHC activities.

In appreciation of Rebecca Lee's attendance, a gift of \$150 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on her behalf.

Resolution 23- National Tree PLanting Program

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

22. Liberal Party Ag. Critic Ian Paton

Sukhdev Goraya introduced the Liberal Party Agriculture Critic Ian Paton.

Ian Paton addressed the membership and welcomed members to meet with the Liberal Caucus in BC.

In appreciation of Ian Paton's attendance, a gift of \$150 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on his behalf.

Resolution 5- ALR to Consider Social and Economic Viability of Family Farms

**Moved/Seconded -
Carried.**

Resolution 13- ALR Diversification and Value-Added

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

Resolution 14- ALR Working Group

**Moved/Seconded -Denise MacDonald/Amarjit Lalli
Carried.**

23. Greetings from Lana Popham

Greetings sent from Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture was read to the members.

24. Labour Committee Report

Bhupinder Dhaliwal presented the Labour report.

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/Asif Mohammad
To receive the Labour Committee Report.
Carried.**

Resolution 26- Adequate Notice of Change to Housing Requirements in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

**Moved/Seconded - Madeleine van Roehoudt/ Tahir Raza
Carried.**

Resolution 27- Work Visa After Arrival- International Experience Canada

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/Tahir Raza
Carried.**

25. Greetings from MP, Tracy Gray

Peter Simonsen introduced Tracy Gray, MP, Kelowna- Lake Country.

Tracy Gray, MP for Kelowna- Lake Country addressed the membership and responded to member comments on programs.

In appreciation of Richard Cannings's attendance, a gift of \$150 will be provided to the Central Okanagan Foodbank on his behalf.

Resolution 8- Federal Infrastructure Program for Agriculture

**Moved/Seconded -Ranbir Kambo/Charanjiit Ghuman
Carried.**

1:15 pm.

Glen Lucas chaired.

26. Election Process

Glen Lucas explained the election process.

27. Appointment of Election Officers to count the votes

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Charanjit Ghuman
To appoint Carl Withler as election officer.
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.

28. President

Pinder Dhaliwal was nominated.

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

Pinder Dhaliwal was declared BCFGAs President by acclamation.

29. North District Council

Avi Gill was nominated.

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

Avi Gill was declared member of the Board by acclamation

30. South District Council

Sukhdeep Brar and Talwinder Bassi were nominated.
There was no motion to open the floor to further nominations.
Sukhdeep Brar and Talwinder Bassi were declared members by acclamation.

31. Resolutions reconvened

Resolution 3- Food Safety Funding
Moved/Seconded -Madeleine van Roechoudt/Amarjit Lalli
Carried.

Resolution 6- Support Young Farmers
Moved/Seconded -Tahir Raza/Joginder Dhand
Carried.

Resolution 15- ALR Information Gathering and Intensification
Moved/Seconded - Tahir Raza/Mohinder Dhaliwal
Carried.

Resolution 30-Economy of Scale and Foreign Ownership of Farms
Moved/Seconded - Asif Mohammad/Charanjit Ghuman
Carried.

Resolution 32- Market Access for Apples
Moved/Seconded -Amarjit Lalli/Asif Mohammad
Carried.

32. Late Resolutions.

Late resolution #2- Reflective Materials Program
Moved/Seconded-Amarjit Lalli/Charanjit Ghuman
To bring Late resolution #2 to the floor of the convention.
Carried by the requisite two-thirds majority.

Moved/Seconded-Amarjit Lalli/Asif Mohammad
To approve Later resolution #2.
Carried.

33. Adjournment, 2:30 p.m.

Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohammad
That the 130th BCFGa Annual Convention be adjourned.

Carried.