



## The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7E4  
Ph: (250) 762 – 5226 • Fax (250) 861 – 9089  
E-mail • [info@bcfga.com](mailto:info@bcfga.com)

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### **Agriculture Census confirms Positive Results in Okanagan Tree Fruit Sector**

**Kelowna** – The BCFGa reacted positively to the 2016 Agriculture Census (released yesterday). Results show a 6% increase in tree fruit acreage in the past 5 years, and a 51% increase in revenue.

“The 2016 Agriculture Census shows why we are optimistic about the tree fruit sector’s future.” said Fred Steele, President of the Association.

Steele explained some of the reasons that the tree fruit sector has been able to grow. “We have benefitted from a strong Buy Local campaign, and our introduction of new varieties of cherries and apples is attracting premium prices and expanding export markets for our product. In terms of production, new horticultural practices that are more productive and environmentally friendly, as well as the introduction of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (Mexico and Caribbean Commonwealth workers), have removed barriers to growth.”

“It is an optimistic and exciting time to be in the tree fruit sector”, concluded Steele.

The BC Fruit Growers’ Association represents 520 family operated farms.

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#### **Attachments**

2016 Agriculture Census - Summary for Okanagan Tree Fruit Sector

#### **Further information**

Statistics Canada Agriculture Census

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/170510/dq170510a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

Fred Steele  
President

BC Fruit Growers’ Association BC Fruit Growers’ Association  
250-801-1968P

Glen Lucas  
General Manager

250-212-8828  
[glucas@bcfga.com](mailto:glucas@bcfga.com)