

2022 BC Fruit Growers' Association Annual Convention

Standing Policy (*February 28, 2022 Status in italics*)

SR1 - National Apple Research and Promotion Agency (Approved 2021)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the CHC Apple Working Group take steps to initiate the National Apple Research and Promotion Agency.

Status: The proposal is suspended pending direction on a provincial Apple Marketing Commission.

SR2 - Replant Program Renewal and Design (Approved 2021)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Replant Program be renewed and provide more flexibility in the compensation provided, including but not limited to an increase in the Replant Grant per tree.

Status: The Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Report recommended a renewal of the Replant Program, but no decision has been made prior to the BCFGAs Annual Convention, and it is highly unlikely that there will be a Replant Program for 2022. The provincial budget of February 22 may indicate direction on a tree fruit replant program.

SR3 - Insurable Value (Approved 2021)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the insurable value for Production Insurance be adequate to ensure financial viability of the farm by improving the pricing data collection and providing cost-based 'replacement' coverage .

Status: Some improvements have been made, but progress is limited due to the lack of data from private packers. Further effort is required.

SR4 - Strategic Plan for the Tree Fruit Industry (Approved 2021)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGAs investigate development of a 10 year strategic plan for the tree fruit industry.

Status: The year 2022 was occupied with participation in the development of the Province's Tree Fruit Stabilization Initiative Report and development of a BCFGAs Business Model. The new Board will determine how to proceed with a 10 year strategic plan for the tree fruit industry.

SR5 - Food Security / Food Sovereignty (Approved 2021)

Therefore Be It Resolved That BCFGAs investigate the concepts of Food Security and Food Sovereignty with the purpose of securing Canadian-grown food for Canadian consumption.

Status: The BCFGA supported the development of a plan by an independent consultant to investigate the concept of Food Security as it relates to the development of Canadian Agricultural Policy. The BCFGA is not directly involved in the project but anticipates the results will be useful in establishing future Canadian Agricultural Policy.

SR6 - ICBC allow multiple drivers for farm vehicles, without restriction (2020)

Therefore Be It Resolved That BCAC request ICBC that the farm vehicles be exempt from the requirement of naming all drivers on the insurance.

Status: A request to BCAC has been made. The request will be renewed in 2022.

SR7 - Retailer Code of Conduct (2020)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the CHC advocate for legislation to implement a broad-based retailer code of practice to avoid further abuse of the dominant market position of highly concentrated retailers.

Status: A national initiative is underway to establish a Retailer Code of Conduct. SR5 will be replaced with 2022 Resolution 16, if approved.

Resolutions Tabled in 2021

Resolution 5 - Property Insurance for Seasonal Agricultural Worker Housing

Tabled to BCFGA Labour Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved That the provincial government introduce regulations so that temporary (Atco-type) buildings with staff accommodation be made eligible for water damage insurance.

Status: A request was made to BCAC to consider the issue in March 2022. Some discussion was held between BCAC and the Cooperators Insurance but the issue was unresolved. The November 14 flood in farming areas of Chilliwack and Sumas Prairie proved the vulnerability of temporary structures due to insurance exclusions from coverage. The issue is considered active with BCAC involvement.

Resolution 16 - Support for Managed, Centralized Campsites for Farm Workers

Tabled to Labour Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGA and BC Grapegrowers' Association investigate and support the establishment of safe, clean and managed campsites for farm workers in the Okanagan.

Status: In 2021, the BCFGa provided two seasonal workers for supervision of COVID-19 at 2 managed campsites in the Okanagan (compensated by provincial COVID-19 funding). Future direction is uncertain, as COVID-19 funding is ended and BCFGa will not have seasonal workers for safety training, instead requesting AgSafeBC to take a leadership role.

Resolution 22 - Social Media to Promote Farm Jobs

Tabled to Labour Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved That the BCFGa use Social Media to reach out to potential workers.

Status: In early 2022, a request for expression of interest was issued to a social media consultant, but a response has not yet been received.

Resolution 7 - Late Season Variety Coverage

Tabled to BCFGa Financial Programs Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Production Insurance Program be amended to provide optional coverage for late season varieties when weather events only impact the late season variety, such that the damage is not pooled with all varieties when determining if minimum damage level will trigger a claim.

Status: For cherries, late and early season coverage is separated into separate policies in the quality program. For apples, all varieties are covered under one policy.

Resolution 17 - Assess Crop Damage at Time of Damage, if needed for crop planning

Tabled to BCFGa Financial Programs Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Production Insurance Branch improve the ability to assess damage as soon as possible after the crop damage occurs, without penalty, in order for the grower to be able to make better decisions on actions to take when crops are damaged.

Status: Production Insurance Branch provided flexibility in 2021 claims due to the extreme conditions of the June 2021 heat dome.

Resolution 8a - Provincial Regulation of Irrigation Rates

Tabled to Board of Directors

Therefore Be It Resolved That the province regulate irrigation fees.

Status: A 2022 resolution renews the proposal for the province to regulate irrigation fees through an independent agency.

Res 8b - Expand Environmental Farm Plan Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

Tabled to Environment Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved That the province increase funding of BMPs in the tree fruit sector, such as weather stations and irrigation soil moisture sensors.

Status: several BMPs have been added to the EFP program including weather stations and irrigation soil moisture sensors.

Resolution 10 - Public Relations Program

Tabled to Member Service Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA put resources in place for a public relations program to educate the public regarding agricultural practices.

Status: The BCFGA is seeking to participate in an AgriCommunications proposal which will address public education on agricultural practices.

Resolution 18 - Membership Drive

Tabled to Member Service Committee

Therefore Be It Resolved that the BCFGA endeavored to expand its membership, encouraging all tree fruit growers to join the association.

Status: The BCFGA has adopted a new Business Model, which will seek to provide benefits, incentives and recognition for membership in the Association. An outreach program to encourage new members will be developed in 2022.

Resolutions Tabled in 2021

No resolutions were tabled in 2022.