



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

www.bcfga.com

November 28, 2013

Apple Commission Vote Launched

Kelowna, BC – The BCFGA Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA) has initiated a grower vote on an Apple Commission to help industry act collectively on research and promotion projects. If approved, the "Apple Research and Promotion Agency", or ARPA, will collect a levy from all apple producers with over 2 acres of apples and direct the levy to research and promotion projects. Additional funding will come from matching government research and promotion programs, the Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit, and a proposed levy on apple imports to Canada.

Growers may vote in person at meetings held November 27 and 28, 2013 and at the BCFGA Annual Convention February 15, 2014, or by mail. "We want growers to become informed on the proposal and to vote. We are confident that if growers take initiative to vote, the outcome will be positive," said Jeet Dukhia, President of the BCFGA. The BCFGA is the sponsor of the project and is investing its time and funding into the development of the proposal and the conduct of the vote. "We also appreciate the partial funding for this project provided by BC Investment Agriculture Foundation," noted the President.

Growers are encouraged to find out information at the website www.bcapplecouncil.org and all registered growers who have not voted at the November 27 and 28 public meetings will receive an information package and ballot mail in the first half of December. Growers not receiving a package, but who are qualified to vote, may register by sending their name and contact information, along with a signed statement that they grow over two acres of apples, to

ARPA Registrar
P.O. Box 29044
Kelowna, BC V1W 4A7

The BCFGA is an agriculture association with a membership of 550 commercial tree fruit growers in BC. It celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2014.

- 30 -

Further information:

Jeet Dukhia, President, BCFGA
250-309-2096 (not available December 1 -7)

Peter Simonsen, Executive Member and ARPA Champion, BCFGA
250-488-0363

Glen Lucas, General Manager, BCFGA
250-212-8828 (Not available November 30 – December 15)

2012 Survey: [www.bcfga.com/files/Report on GE survey - July 3 2012.pdf](http://www.bcfga.com/files/Report%20on%20GE%20survey%20-%20July%203%202012.pdf)