



LEADING THE WAY TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

www.bcac.ca





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Stan Vander Waal

Representing Floriculture

Stan owns Rainbow Greenhouses in Chilliwack and belongs to the United Flower Growers who represent 50 growers in British Columbia. Year-round, these growers supply retail stores with cut flowers, seasonal field grown cuts, hanging baskets, poinsettias, flowering potted plants, landscape material and bedding plants.

MESSAGE from our president

DID YOU KNOW...

BCAC's board of directors is made up of 14 farmers and ranchers representing grouped sectors that make up our membership?

Most of you have travelled to be here today to represent your industry and support agriculture in this great province... thank-you for being here.

During events like our Annual General Meeting, Ag Day in Victoria or the Ag Gala, it always inspires me because it demonstrates how we come united in our strong belief that agriculture, at its core, is the heartbeat of British Columbia.

In 2018, the agriculture sector once again experienced challenges but also successes that are worth mentioning. We saw the implementation of government's election platform items such as:

- minimum wage increases;
- the provincial health tax transfer;
- updates to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulations; or
- changes to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) governance and Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Last year went by in a flash but there was a lot going on within BCAC's walls. Here are some of last year's highlights.

2018 AG DAY IN VICTORIA

BCAC and our member associations travelled from across the province in November to collaborate with government on key issues. Ag Day provides an opportunity for us as farmers and ranchers to connect with key government representatives for that very reason. We were also there to increase awareness around the positive impacts agriculture has on B.C.'s economy. Our key messages were focused on:

1. Land use;
2. Labour; and
3. Demonstrating doing the "right things".

BCAC and the government have an important role to play in supporting our food system. In 2018 we set a new record by securing 12 ministers and scheduled over 40 meetings. For more on government representation, please see the report from Executive Director, Reg Ens on the following pages.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BCAC is continually tasked with incorporating strategic ways to strengthen organizational resources that support our objectives while doing our best to keep member dues stable. The Ag Gala and Farmer ID Card Program are two critical activities that support BCAC's deliverables to our membership. Here is a review on those activities from 2018:

AG GALA The *17th Annual BC Agri-Food Industry Gala* was another fantastic event! The proceeds raised at the gala directly support the Council's work to advocate on behalf of over 20,000 farm families, deliver programs and services to B.C. farmers and ranchers and move our province's agriculture sector forward in collaboration with our stakeholders. Ag Day in Victoria (our main lobby day) wouldn't be possible without the funds raised at the gala. The proceeds from the silent auction again were donated to *BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation* – an organization dedicated to growing agriculture knowledge with our youth.

FARMER ID CARD PROGRAM In the last quarter, BCAC staff conducted a review of the Farmer ID Card Program to evaluate:

- how valuable the program is to existing cardholders and program partners;
- if the products and services offered were being used; and
- determine what improvements, if any, needed to be made.

There also was a taskforce made up of four BCAC board directors to provide input on the evaluation data and proposed recommendations for changes. Based off the review, here are some improvements you will see in 2019:

- New and improved program discounts, benefits and services
- The Premises ID number can be printed on card (this is specific to livestock)
- A reduced price for authorized card holders (from \$60 to \$25 per year)
- An online portal for cardholders to 24/7 access to program discounts
- The roll/folio number for your property to be printed on the card (later in 2019)

And more to come! For a list of current discount offerings, please visit: www.bcac.ca

STRENGTHENING CONSUMERS' CONFIDENCE IN HOW WE GROW AND RAISE B.C. PRODUCT

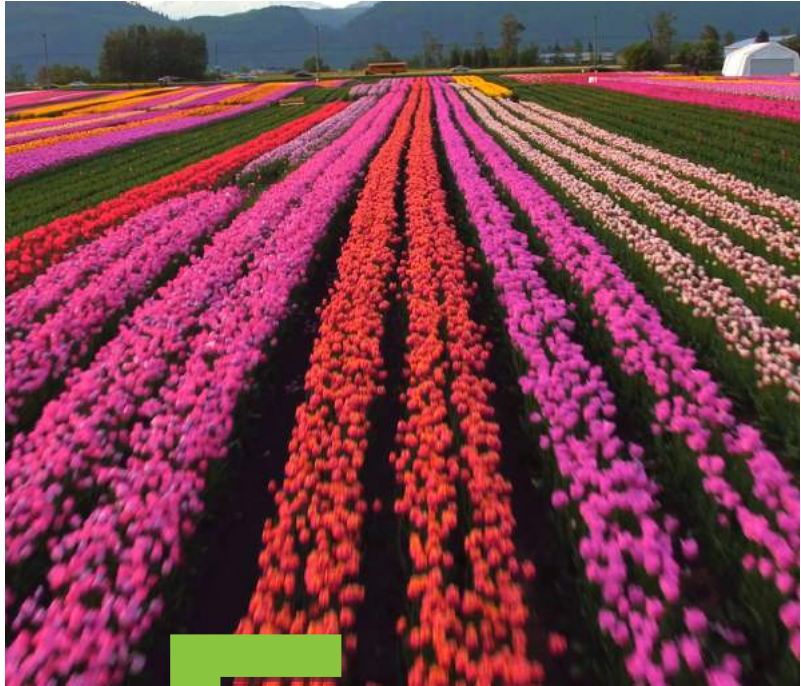
Farmers and ranchers in B.C. are resilient to change and constantly innovative. Nationally, Canada holds some of the highest standards for important matters such as animal care and sustainable farming practices in the world. That truly is something to be proud of and a story we need to constantly be telling. We look forward to sharing more on the public trust program's deliverables with you today and having a discussion on how we plan to address consumer communication moving forward. I would like to thank our members and their boards, sponsors, industry partners, government representatives and all farmers and ranchers for your dedication to



**Stan Vander Waal, President
BC Agriculture Council**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

year in review



For the first time in several years, we finished 2018 with a full staff compliment. Becky Parker joined BCAC in June and has jumped into leading the public trust program development. Ray O'Farrell joined ARDCorp in July to lead the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program. And finally, Veronica Moreno joined us in September to lead the work on the Temporary Foreign Worker file through WALI (Western Agriculture Labour Initiative).

These individuals, together with the rest of the team, are what enable the organization to make a difference in a few of our key focus areas.

Connecting with and influencing government actions is a core activity for BCAC. We saw ministers focused on completing the objectives outlined in each of their mandate letters.

Environment, labour and land use issues dominated most discussions for us in 2018. Details on each of these are outlined later in the report.

Thank you to all of the farmers, ranchers and members' staff who have worked with the BCAC board and staff this year. Our tagline of "leading the way together" is central to who BCAC is and what makes us successful. With your support and engagement, we are all more effective. A very successful Ag Day in November is a great example of how collaborating makes a bigger impact than attempting the same task alone.

Continue reading to learn more about BCAC's activities and areas of focus during the 2018 year.



Reg Ens
Executive Director
BC Agriculture Council

ENVIRONMENT

The *Ag Waste Working Group* actively engaged with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture in finalizing the text in the new *Agriculture Environment Management Code of Practice* (AEMCoP).

Over the summer and fall, the smaller review group met with senior government staff and Ministers Heyman and Popham to ensure that the final regulations made the needed improvements and worked for farmers. The new regulations will require many farmers to make changes.

The extended implementation timeline will provide time for government, professional advisors and farmers time to develop tools and processes needed to support the regulations. BCAC is in discussions with the Province on best ways to connect with farmers and ranchers so they understand the new regulations and what needs to be done on their own farms.

Slow processing times on groundwater licencing continues being a frustration with many farmers. BCAC has assisted the Ministry of Environment with outreach efforts to assist farmers and ranchers understand how to apply for a licence.

LABOUR

Accessing reliable and cost-effective labour sources continues being an ever-increasing challenge for B.C. farmers. The 2018 year began with significant challenges around the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program (SAWP). In May, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) organized a meeting with the Ministers of Agriculture, Employment and Immigration. BCAC participated in this very successful meeting. A national working group has been struck with government and industry.

The provincial government accelerated the timing of the increases to the minimum wage rate. It was a challenge for farmers who are price takers to pass along increasing costs after contracts are signed. The review panel made recommendations to eliminate piece-rate based pay.

Government heard our concerns with the potential loss of this management tool and commissioned a more in-depth review. BCAC and many of our members participated in the review and we await release of the final report.

In February, the Province announced the elimination of individual MSP (Medical Services Plan) premiums and creation of the Employers Health Tax. The tax adds significant costs to many farmers' operations. Unfortunately, it is modeled after similar taxes in other provinces, therefore, it is difficult for B.C. not to follow. BCAC continues lobbying government to exempt wages paid to SAWP workers as they are not eligible for coverage under MSP.

LAND USE

Early in this government's mandate they launched a review of the ALR and ALC. BCAC and many of our members provided input to the review panel. Bill 52 was tabled in late 2018. BCAC has been lobbying for one zone for several years. We continue working with government behind the scenes to ensure that we protect farmland and farmers for future generations. A number of members have raised concerns that some regional governments do not have the capacity or expertise to develop regulations that fit with evolving farming practices.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL AGREEMENT (CAP)

In April, we saw the launch of the next federal-provincial/territorial (FPT) agriculture agreement called the *Canadian Agriculture Partnership* (CAP). BCAC had led a working group leading to the development of this agreement. Thank you to all of the individuals who supported this work. The *Climate Action Initiative* (CAI) and the *Environmental Farm Plan* (EFP) are two key programs funded by CAP that are delivered by ARDCorp.

ABOUT BC Agriculture Council

WE DON'T EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT FARMING. THEREFORE, THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION ON WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO AGRICULTURE IS KEY.



DID YOU KNOW...

**BCAC IS A COUNCIL
OF COMMODITY
ASSOCIATIONS
WHICH IS A
STRUCTURE
UNIQUE TO B.C.?**

As a council of associations, our structure allows us to tackle issues efficiently in collaboration with staff from our member associations and also between board directors, achieving farmer-to-farmer communication.

BCAC is a registered lobbyist with the Province of British Columbia and is the only provincial-wide organization representing the farmers and ranchers of B.C. to government.

The Province of BC estimates that there are over 200 land-based farm products and 100 ocean-based farm products produced in B.C. and our membership mirrors that diversity.

Of the farming found in the province, BCAC proudly represents nearly 30 different commodity groups who in turn generate 96% of farm gate sales.



”
*Agriculture needs strong,
collaborative representation
that speaks to our issues
while allowing us continue
to do what we do best,
run our farms.*

**BCAC IS THAT
REPRESENTATION FOR US.**

- Stan Vander Waal

OUR key focus areas

Government Representation

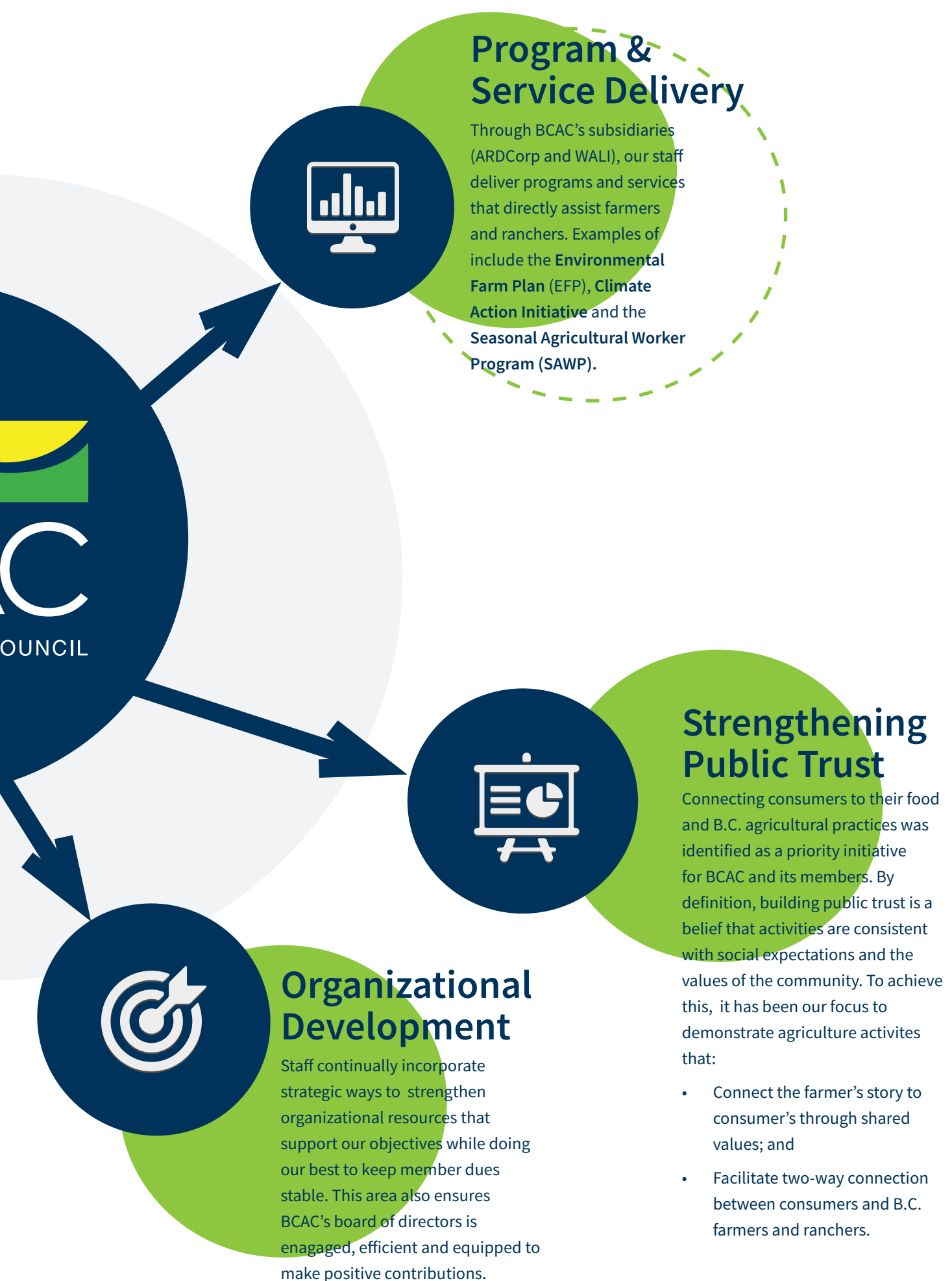
BCAC advocates for all B.C. farmers and ranchers with the provincial government and federal government (through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture).



Collaboration, Communication & Engagement

The focus of this area is to facilitate collaboration, engagement and two-way dialogue with members and other key stakeholders to strengthen relationships in the sector and develop common positions on key issues affecting all of agriculture.







STRENGTHENING public trust

THE GOAL TO CREATE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS REMAINED A PRIORITY.

By: Becky Parker - 2019 started out with offering four free communications workshops to producers; two “How to Host a Farm Tour” workshops and two “SpeakUp!” communications workshops. The half-day sessions were well attended by a range of B.C. farmers and ranchers.

BCAC struck a ***We Heart Local BC (WHL)*** committee made up of communications and marketing staff from our membership and key stakeholders. The purpose of the committee was to develop and execute a communications plan that would:

- facilitate two-way communication between consumers and B.C. farmers and ranchers; and
- provide opportunities for learning to B.C. farmers and ranchers.



In the second half of the year, work on the communication pillar continued with the launch of a redesigned WHL BC website in November, and growing engagement across WHL BC social channels (more than 46,000 total followers at end of 2018). A second farm tour was held in October in the North Okanagan, with chef and dietitian participants. Four producer training sessions were offered in the summer and fall, with the objective to improve producer skill and confidence to engage with the public. The Manager of Community Trust remains actively involved in public trust discussions occurring at a national level, and presented on BC’s efforts to date at the National Public Trust Steering Committee meeting in November 2018.

In November, a contract for Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding was signed. Research surveys and one-on-one interviews assessed the presence and adoption of industry standards and assurance systems within a sample of BCAC membership. Results and recommendations will be shared in spring 2019. Government funding also supported the refinement of shared values messaging, the start of a new B.C. specific training program development called the ***C.H.A.T. Communication Workshop***, and development of communications resources for producers.



2018 PUBLIC TRUST INITIATIVE DELIVERABLES

- **HUB MEETINGS** Coordinated two meetings between all B.C. food system stakeholders (retailers, BCAC member associations, distributors, producers, processors, amplifiers, influencers, etc.) to create a set of shared values.
- **PRODUCER TRAINING** BCAC offered a total of four *SpeakUp!* and four *How to Host a Farm Tour* workshops. A B.C. specific training program will continue to be developed in 2019.
- **CONSUMER RESEARCH** BCAC commissioned research through Insights West to survey 841 B.C. residents on agri-food topics. Results have informed program and communication direction.
- **WE HEART LOCAL BC** A *WHL BC* Communications Committee was formed to re-establish the brand, develop and implement a communications plan for April to December 31, 2018. The *WHL BC* website was redesigned and launched in November 2018.
- **FARM TOURS** *WHL BC* hosted two farm tours: May tours were in Delta at a dairy farm and a vegetable greenhouse ; October in the Okanagan. Participants included chefs and dietitians. Tour surveys showed an increase in knowledge and trust on a variety of topics: food safety, environmental sustainability, animal welfare and transparency.
- **VIDEO STORYTELLING** Helping farmers and ranchers tell their story about “doing the right things” was a high priority for the initiative. As humans, we are primed to remember stories. Storytelling is a natural motivator that drives emotion, action or sharing. Plus, it also builds relationships! Check out the videos on the public trust section of the BCAC website.
- **SHARED VALUES SURVEY** A survey of B.C. producers was conducted to inform development of “shared value statements” for use in outreach to the public.
- **STANDARDS/ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT** Work began in November to assess the presence and adoption of industry standards/assurance systems within a sample of BCAC membership. Report to come in 2019.

ACTIVITIES IN 2019

PILLARS 1 & 2: “Doing the Right Things” and Trusted Assurance / Verification Systems

- Work with members to highlight successful industry standards and assurance systems
- Connect members who are looking for well-established verification systems to share best practices
- Expand adoption of programs across industry
- Work to expand incentives for producers to adopt industry best practices

PILLAR 3: Communications with consumers and producers

- Communicate about industry standards and assurance systems to the public in an effort to strengthen public confidence
- Delivery of CHAT Communication Workshops in collaboration with BCAC membership
- Host additional farm tours in collaboration with industry partners.
- Work with BCAC membership to expand content (blogs, farmer profiles, etc.) on *WHL BC* channels, and identify producer ambassadors
- Explore collaborations with the government’s *Buy BC* program

BC YOUNG FARMERS

year in review

BC Young Farmers (BCYF) is a committee under BC Agriculture Council. BCYF assists in the transition of young farmers to board rooms and to owning farms. In social and interactive settings, BCYF members learn leadership skills, explore community development, improve agricultural awareness, explore individual talents and most importantly, meet fellow young farmers. BCYF members are young farmers or young agricultural supporters between the ages of 19 and 40.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018

JANUARY

Shared a booth with BCAC at the Pacific Agriculture Show.

FEBRUARY

Ten BCYF delegates attended the Canadian Young Farmers Forum AGM in Ottawa.

MARCH

BCYF hosted and arranged three days of tours for 15 young farmers from the Young Farmers and Ranchers of Oregon. Four BCYF members reciprocated and toured Oregon in July.

JUNE

Okanagan farm tour of Paynter's Fruit Market and Volcanic Hills Winery.

JULY

Chilliwack farm tour and barbeque. Stops included Qualitree, the new home of PrairieCoast Equipment and Toop farms.

NOVEMBER

Farm Fest at KPU Langley Campus with keynote speaker Andrew Campbell on Advocacy sponsored by FCC.



2018 BCYF Chair

Alexis Szarek

2018 Vice-Chair

Jill Robbins

2018 Treasurer

Leo Quik



Keynote Presenter:
Andrew Campbell





WALI

Chair's Message

The 2018 year started off with significant problems for farmers who were trying to bring temporary foreign workers into Canada. Long delays getting LMIAs approved, and more delays in Mexico filling approved LMIAs led to many workers not arriving on time. Thanks to our staff, partners such as Mi Tierra and the Mexican Consulate staff and our national organizational support of CFA & CHC, we saw dramatic improvement in the resources invested into the programs to make improvements. Veronica Moreno joined our WALI team in September which has allowed us to build stronger relations in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Ottawa. These investments appear to be paying off with significant improvements being seen in early 2019. Although there is a lot of work to do, we are confident that 2019 will be a much more successful year than 2018.



WALI
Western Agriculture
Labour Initiative

2018 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Organized four employer SAWP workshops – Abbotsford, Delta, Kelowna, Osoyoos
- Reduced Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA's) processing times for SAWP workers from 3-4 weeks at the beginning of the year to 4-10 days in the fall. Thank you to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) for working with us to achieve this.
- Updated the WALI website, making it the first stop for employers looking for information on TFW programs.
- Developed much stronger connections with Ministry of Labour in Mexico and the Canadian Visa Processing Center. This has reduced the processing times and number of workers not arriving on time. Thank you to the Secretariat of Labour and Social Prevision (STPS) of Mexico and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) of Canada for working with us.
- Worked with Mexico and Canada to get 50% of the anticipated 2019 workers visas processed prior to the deadline for biometrics by opening up the time restriction between LMIA applications and fulfilment by the host country.
- Both the Government of Mexico and Canada have taken steps to improve scheduling for biometric appointments in Mexico, work permit processing logistics and arranging travel schedules.
- Engaged with Canada and other stakeholders in the Migrant Workers Support Network (MWSN). This B.C. pilot initiative was announced by Canada in February. WALI labour committee members and staff actively represent the interests of farm employers at these meetings.

**- Rhonda Driediger, Chair
WALI**

LABOUR

WALI

The Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Agriculture Council that works with employers and governments to enable employers to find adequate domestic workers and continually improve working conditions for temporary workers.

REPORT ON LABOUR

By: Veronica Moreno

In 2018, employers in the agriculture sector struggled to fill their labour needs and the reliance on foreign workers continued to increase. However, delays on the arrival of many of those temporary foreign workers resulted in hundreds of unfilled positions and high production losses. BCAC increased their efforts to help farmers and hired Veronica Moreno into the new position as WALI program manager, facilitating communication between employers, government and other organizations. BCAC also joined The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) which is the lead national farm organization at SAWP negotiation meetings.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR 2019

Now that most of the processes are working better, WALI will focus on the following items for the coming year:

- Improve processing times for Ag Stream LMIAs.
- Pilot ESDC's online LMIA application processing system.
- Work with ESDC to develop a "returning employer program". The idea is to have something like a Nexus card for employers.
- Provide additional resources for B.C. employers and workers in multiple languages.
- Lobby the provincial government to have SAWP wages excluded from the employers' payroll health tax.
- Work with the province in the development of the new Industrial Work Camp Regulations.



Veronica Moreno

Program Manager | Jefe de Programa
604 854 4454 | 1 866 522 3447
info@walicanada.ca

New Program Manager Veronica Moreno

- Born in Quito, Ecuador and has lived in the USA, Europe and the Caribbean.
- 18 years of experience in business development in the private and non-profit sectors in Canada and Latin America.
- Most recently managed operations at blueberry farm.
- BA in Business Administration, post graduate degree from Capilano University – North Vancouver.
- Vancouver has been her home for the past 18 years.



ARDCORP Chair's Message



The B.C. Agricultural Research & Development Corporation (ARDCorp) is pleased to provide its 2018 Annual Report. As the program delivery agent for the B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC), ARDCorp serves B.C. farmers and ranchers by delivering programs, funding, and expertise to enhance the competitiveness, innovation, and viability of B.C. agriculture. ARDCorp enjoyed another successful year of program delivery in 2018, concluding programs funded under the previous five-year federal-provincial agreement (Growing Forward 2) and the launch of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN PROGRAM (EFP)

Over the five years that ARDCorp delivered the EFP program, 1143 farm plans were completed 1349 projects were funded. Government's investment of \$9.7M in EFP and BMP helped trigger \$9M of investment by farmers towards reducing agriculture's impact on the environment. ARDCorp achieved all of the targets set out by government in the contract.

Leading up to the launch of the CAP funding agreement, B.C. farmers and ranchers strongly voiced their support for the value of the EFP program and the need for it to be part of the next funding agreement. We are proud to say that with government's partnership, the EFP program was one of the first CAP funded programs launched.

A major high point for 2018, was having Ray O'Farrell join ARDCorp as the EFP Program Manager. Ray's farm family background makes him a natural fit for the program. Ray is supported and mentored by Geoff Hughes-Games, who remains part of the EFP team as the Technical Specialist.

Refer to the EFP report for additional details of what has been completed year to date with CAP.



BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE (CAI)

As with EFP, the Climate Action Initiative (CAI) successfully transitioned from GF2 to CAP. We are fortunate that Emily McNair and her team of consultants stayed on with the initiative and continue providing leadership to the program.

Three plans were developed (Peace, Delta, Cowichan) through a pilot project prior to GF2, and three more plans (Cariboo, Okanagan, Fraser Valley) during the life of GF2. A total of 41 regional projects were completed during GF2, and 15 FAIP projects - a total of 56 projects funded by CAI during GF2.

Some more metrics on the program during GF2 are available in our "Partnering for Success" document that's on our website: <https://bit.ly/2OLCXYG>

With renewed funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), CAI began a new phase of program delivery. Its two key programs include the Regional Adaptation Program and Farm Adaptation Innovator Program (FAIP), will run until spring 2023. Please refer to the CAI report for additional details.

**- Allen James, Chair
ARDCORP**

Chad and Ricky Seelhof of Woodjam Ranch pose with the new EFP sign during a video shoot project conducted in September 2018. The video highlighted one of the projects that was funded through the EFP/BMP program.

- Horsefly, BC



EFP video storytelling

Video storytelling was a new communications tactic for the EFP Program in 2018. As humans, we are primed to remember stories - it is a natural motivator that drives emotion, action and sharing. Plus, it also builds relationships.

Staff developed two videos that highlighted projects that received funding through the program. The purpose of the videos were to:

1. Introduce and describe the EFP program;
2. Demonstrate a successfully implemented project that received funding through the program;
3. Communicate the benefits - both intrinsic and monetary that come from participating; and
4. Utilize the videos for future marketing of the program.

One video was on Irmi and Barry Critcher's farm in Dawson Creek. They belong to the BC Grain Producers Association. The other video was on Chad and Ricky Seelhof's ranch in Horsefly.

Check out the videos on the EFP webpage by visiting: www.bcefp.ca

A man with short brown hair, wearing a blue polo shirt over a white t-shirt, stands in front of a yellow tractor. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. The tractor's hood and part of its cab are visible in the background.

ENVIRONMENTAL farm plan update

By: Ray O'Farrell Since the start of the CAP agreement, the Environmental Farm Plan Program (EFP) continued to deliver its two distinct components: the Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program. Both components have a similar strategic direction, but a different focus.

Through the efforts of 21 planning advisors located across the province, 244 new EFPs, 127 renewed EFPs and 51 implemented plans were achieved in 2018. The program has effectively exceeded its yearly targets.

Addressing agricultural issues in areas of environmental sensitivity remained a priority. A regional planner was hired in October to promote the EFP program as an instrument to address water quality concerns in the Nooksack watershed.

BMP applications for the 2018 program year were accepted in June. Intake windows were introduced for the first time in an effort to distribute funds in a more targeted and streamlined fashion.

For the 2018-19 program year, the BMP program saw 275 projects completed with \$1.48 million in program funding. Riparian and manure management projects accounted for 45% of the total approved. These projects contribute towards the programs' objectives of reducing impacts on BC's soil, water, air and biodiversity.

EFP and BMP programming continues to be strengthened and plans to be a useful resource for producers in response to numerous environmental regulatory changes coming into effect in 2019.

For more information visit: www.bcefp.ca



244

244 new EFPs, 127 renewed EFPs and 51 implemented plans were achieved in 2018.



21

Planning advisors located across the province.



275

The BMP program saw 275 projects completed with \$1.48 million in program funding. Riparian and manure management projects accounted for 45% of the total approved.

CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE **update**

BY: EMILY MCNAIR IN 2018, THE BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE (CAI) BEGAN A NEW PHASE OF PROGRAM DELIVERY WITH RENEWED FUNDING THROUGH THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP). ITS TWO KEY PROGRAMS, THE REGIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAM AND FARM ADAPTATION INNOVATOR PROGRAM (FAIP), WILL RUN UNTIL SPRING 2023.

BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE (CAI)

**Agriculture is
vulnerable to changes
in climatic conditions
and even small
shifts can have
significant
consequences
for food production,
the livelihoods of
farmers, and
the future of the agri-
food sector in B.C.**

Two new agricultural regions, Bulkley-Nechako/Fraser-Fort George and Kootenay/Boundary, were added to the Regional Adaptation Program. The local planning processes to develop adaptation strategies were launched in autumn 2018, with over 140 participants attending the first set of workshops. The plans will be released in spring 2019.

Between spring 2018 and early 2019, over \$500,000 has been invested in 11 new projects with CAI's regional agricultural partners. Projects include:

- A Fraser Valley-initiated flood readiness toolkit that will have province-wide relevance;
- A wildfire pre-season communications and information exchange pilot in the Okanagan; and
- Development and extension of agricultural pest management tools and resources in the Cariboo.

Two calls for expressions of interest were issued for FAIP in September and November 2018, and over 55 submissions were received. Ten collaborative applied research projects were approved and will get underway in spring 2019.

In addition to its regular programming, CAI is coordinating 10 agriculture wildfire preparedness workshops across the province (January to March 2019).

The Climate Action Initiative is doing a great job of reaching out to producers and supporting projects that are helping farmers today as well as strengthening our viability in the future.

**- LYDIA RYALL,
CROPTHORNE FARM**



OUR members

BC Blueberry Council
BC Broiler Hatching Egg
Producers' Association
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Cherry Association
BC Chicken Growers' Association
BC Cranberry Growers' Association
BC Dairy Association
BC Egg Producers' Association
BC Fruit Growers' Association
BC Grain Producers' Association
BC Grapegrowers' Association
BC Greenhouse Growers' Association
BC Honey Producers' Association
BC Landscape & Nursery Association
BC Pork Producers' Association

BC Potato & Vegetable Growers' Association
BC Poultry Association
BC Salmon Farmers Association
BC Strawberry Growers Association
BC Turkey Association
BC Wine Grape Council
Certified Organic Associations of
British Columbia
Fraser Valley Cole Crop Growers' Association
Fraser Valley Pea and Bush Bean
Growers' Association
Horse Council British Columbia
Mushroom Growers Society of BC
Peace Region Forage Seed Association
Raspberry Industry Development Council
United Flower Growers' Co-Op

OUR board

Stan Vander Waal - Board Chair
Representing Floriculture

Jared DeJong - Board Vice Chair
Representing Dairy

Ray VanMarrewyk - Board Treasurer
Representing Greenhouse Vegetables

Sharmain Zylstra - Director at Large
Representing Poultry

Lynda Atkinson - Director
Representing Equine

Sukhpaul Bal - Director
Representing Interior Horticulture

Terry Brooks - Director
Representing Aquaculture

**Duncan Barnett - Director/ARDCorp
Vice Chair**
Representing Cattle, Pork and Other
Livestock

Rhonda Driediger - Director/WALI Chair
Representing Coastal Horticulture

Barry Follensbee - Director
Representing Grain, Oilseeds and Forage

Jen Gamble - Director
Representing Organics

**Allen James - BCAC Ex-Officio/
ARDCorp Chair**

Peter Levelton - Director
Representing Ornamental
Horticulture

Jillian Robbins - BCAC Ex-Officio
Representing BC Young Farmers