

Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project

Terms of Reference for the Domestic Labour Committee

Background

The Domestic Labour Committee is established under the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council, which is administered by the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project (CCLSP). See Appendix A for more information about the CCLSP.

Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the CCLSP Domestic Labour Committee is to collaborate across the apple, cherry, and wine grape industries to ensure a coordinated, cross-commodity approach to access domestic workers and help address farm labour challenges. To date, the Committee has mainly focused on providing guidance and support for the BC Fruit Works project. Committee members are eager to expand their mandate to include other initiatives that will help improve the domestic labour situation. The Committee will need to define these new initiatives and may need to seek out funding to support their implementation.

Membership

Membership on the CCLSP Domestic Labour Committee includes one or more representatives from each of the following:

- BC Grapegrowers' Association
- BC Cherry Association
- BC Fruit Growers' Association
- BC Tree Fruits Cooperative
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- At-large representatives (producers) from industry (one each from cherries, grapes, and apples)

Roles and Responsibilities

The CCLSP Project Director and an industry representative will Co-Chair the Committee. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for calling the meetings and drafting the agenda to be approved at the beginning of each meeting. Committee members can request items to be included in the agenda.

The CCLSP is also responsible for providing administrative support for the Committee (i.e., meeting logistics, agenda, minutes), providing project management for BC Fruit Works, and managing or assisting with other projects as requested by the Committee.

The Committee is responsible for:

- Generating ideas for projects or actions that could improve domestic labour for industry.
- Providing information and advice to the Advisory Council and acting as a resource for the Advisory Council.
- Providing strategic direction (but not operational support) for BCFW.
- Providing input on new ideas for BCFW (e.g., potential improvements in the technology and social media efforts, new approaches) proposed by the BCFW project team.
- Evaluating the effectiveness and long-term viability of BCFW and any other initiatives the Committee works on.
- Providing consistent, positive communications to boards, staff, and industry regarding BCFW and other initiatives the Committee may work on.
- Engaging in other matters consistent with these Terms of Reference as agreed by the Committee.

Conduct

Members are obliged to participate in the Committee with the following principles in mind:

- We will do our best to represent the interests of all commodities in the agriculture industry on the Committee and not just the organization we represent.
- We will consider the work of other jurisdictions.
- We will engage in respectful dialogue, communication, and documentation.
- We will respect timelines and individual commitments we make.
- We are committed to a transparent process of communications that demonstrates our commitment to this work and reflects the cooperation required for success.
- We will respect that some information shared in Committee meetings is confidential (e.g.: reflecting personal opinions) and not to be shared with others outside the group.

Communications

CCLSP staff will draft and circulate minutes summarizing the activities, discussion, and outcomes of each meeting. Committee members are expected to report out within their respective organizations. It is critical that all Committee members and their organizations are active in communicating about and ensuring a proactive, positive, and cooperative approach to the work of the Committee.

The Committee may communicate with the public (including media) on business specific to the Committee in the following way:

1. The Project Director may speak on behalf of the Committee. The Project Director will make every attempt to include the Committee, or its Co-Chair at a minimum, in an initial discussion beforehand to ensure messaging is on point.
2. In consultation with the Project Director, the Co-Chair of the Committee, or designate (as noted in 3 below) may speak to the public on the Committee's behalf.
3. In consultation with the Project Director, the Co-Chair may designate another member of the Committee to act as spokesperson on a particular issue.
4. Individual members may not communicate with the public on behalf of the Committee, except as noted above.

5. Media releases, web-postings and other outreach materials produced by the Committee must be approved in advance by the Project Director.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet quarterly, mid-month in January, April, June, and November. Ad-hoc meetings will be held as deemed necessary by the Co-Chairs.

Expenses

Members that are staff in an industry organization are already compensated by that organization. Their time will not be reimbursed, but their travel expenses will be reimbursed (if in-person meetings are required) as per the Provincial Government Guidelines for Public Servant Travel. Members who are in volunteer roles in their organizations (e.g. volunteer board members) will be reimbursed for their time and (if in-person meetings are required) their travel expenses, both as per the Provincial Government Guidelines for Public Servant Travel.

Appendix A

About the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project

Founding Partners

The founding partners of the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project are:

- BC Cherry Association
- BC Fruit Growers' Association
- BC Grapegrowers' Association
- BC Wine Grape Council
- Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program

Project Vision

The vision of the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project is that British Columbia has strong and vibrant tree fruit and wine grape sectors that are world leaders in environmentally sustainable and profitable production, the agricultural lands and the people that grow food are valued by communities, and our agricultural capacity is protected for future generations.

Project Mission

The Project's mission is to provide a forum for tree fruit and wine grape industry associations and stakeholders to coordinate and collaborate on cross-commodity issues while also providing capacity to make meaningful progress on these issues.

Project Goals

The goals of the Project are:

1. Leadership of the Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Initiative successfully transfers from MAF to industry.
2. Tree fruit and wine grape industry leaders meet regularly to share knowledge and expertise and identify and act on common challenges and opportunities.
3. Tree fruit and wine grape industry associations work together to define funding needs and identify and apply for grants.
4. Tree fruit and wine grape industry associations have the capacity to work on initiatives that help them adapt to and thrive in changing climatic, regulatory, and market conditions.
5. Tree fruit and wine grape industries are well-informed about cross-commodity challenges and opportunities and can provide input on priorities.