

DOMESTIC LABOUR COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Domestic Labour Committee** held virtually via MS Teams on April 14, 2025.

Members Present:

Benoit Gauthier
Beth Cavers
Kellie Garcia (CO-CHAIR)
Shelby Austen
Sukhpaul Bal
Tyrion Miskell (CO-CHAIR)

Noble Ridge Winery
BC Cherry Association
Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
BC Cherry Association
BC Grapegrowers' Association

Regrets:

Annelise Simonsen
Connor Williamson

BC Fruit Growers' Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

2. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

3. MEMBER ROUND TABLE UPDATES

- Beth informed the group that BCCA has launched a new labour committee. She also noted increased interest from Chinese buyers in sourcing Canadian cherries due to ongoing trade issues and tariffs with the U.S.
 - Tyrion requested more information on the BCCA labour committee and its purpose. Beth explained that it was formed in response to members feeling their concerns on certain policies were not being adequately addressed.
 - Kellie added that BCFGa is also considering forming a labour committee with representation from the cherry and grape sectors, though the status is currently unclear.
 - Sukhpaul noted that with the closure of BCTF and uncertainty within BCFGa, much of their focus has shifted to apple-related issues. Some BCCA members felt their needs were not being met and chose to take independent action. He indicated that he would explore bringing CCLSP into the group.
- Benoit reported a good winter and spring, noting that while vine development started later, bud swell is now visible, and an earlier bud break is expected. Thinning is set to begin in May.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
Kellie/Sukhpaul	Connect RE: CCLSP & BCCA labour committee

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 BC FRUIT WORKS: FINAL REPORT & NEXT STEPS

Kellie informed the group that BC Fruit Works (BCFW) has been brought under the cross-commodity umbrella and is now integrated with a local provider, managed by CCLSP staff. Due to low participation over the past three years, hiring a dedicated project lead is no longer feasible. However, efforts will continue to raise awareness, strengthen relationships, and provide industry resources - particularly through the website, which will be further developed with tree fruit and wine grape content.

Kellie noted that while BCFW originally addressed a significant gap in the industry, other organizations such as AgSafe and CAHRC, now with dedicated funding, are better positioned to offer HR support. With BCFW wrapped up, CCLSP will engage with these groups to explore how the work completed over the past three years can continue to support the sector.

4.2 LABOUR RESEARCH PROJECT: UPDATE

The Domestic Labour Research Project is expected to conclude in June. Moving forward, findings and recommendations will be reviewed to determine how BCFW and other organizations can help advance them to support industry progress.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Kellie brought forward a recommendation to pause the CCLSP Domestic Labour Committee until there is more clarity on the direction of related initiatives. The group agreed with the recommendation.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
Shelby/Benoit	Connect RE: Involvement on other CCLSP committees

6. ADJOURNMENT