



BC blueberries
Powered by nature.

On behalf of the staff and members of the BC Blueberry Council, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to Dianne Klatt's family and friends.

With the news of Dianne's sudden passing, and her Memorial Service taking place on June 13 at 1pm, the BC Blueberry Council has decided to move the date and time of our AGM.

Please see the updated details below.

BC Blueberry Council AGM

Date

June 18, 2019

Time

3:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Venue

Langley Golf & Banquet Center

21550 44 Ave, Langley City, BC V3A 7N1



Agenda

1. Call to Order and confirmation of quorum
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval [Minutes of the AGM held on June 21, 2018](#)
4. Business arising from the Minutes
5. Bylaw update
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Audited financial statements for the year ending 31.03.2019
 - 6.2. Proposed budget
 - 6.3. BCBC activity update
 - 6.4. Research update
 - 6.5. Promotions update
7. Elections – board of director positions (see nominee bios below)
8. Adjourn

The audited financial statements and the proposed budget will come available on Thursday, June 6th on BC Blueberry Council's website under:

MEMBERS LOGIN: <http://www.bcblueberry.com/>.

If you need assistance please contact the office at (604)864-2117 or info@bcblueberry.com

Nominees for Director Positions on the Council Board

Region A - Jason Smith (Abbotsford, Agassiz, Chilliwack area - 3 year term)

I am a fourth-generation blueberry growers and have lived on the farm located in the Abbotsford area since I was three-years old. I have grown up learning and being involved in all aspects of the farming operations from all levels of field work (pruning, irrigation, harvesting, application of protection products, pest control, fertilizing), food safety, packing (we used to do fresh sales), agronomy, business planning and management.

Currently I farm about 15-acres in the Abbotsford area and another 5 in the Surrey area. In the past I worked as a Senior Sales Rep for Terralink Horticulture for about nine-years. As well as farming, I am also part owner of PIER Management & Consulting Inc and work with mainly berry growers as a private consultant and also supply some relevant crop inputs. I have been involved in many committees and some voluntary organization (BC Blueberry Council (past chair, past vice-chair), LMHIA, NABC, USHBC, IBO representative) in the past. Currently I am Chair of CHC Crop Protection Committee and participate in the BCBC Research Committee, USHBC Good Practices Committee, NABC Finance Committee, Province of BC Climate Action Initiative, RMAC and BCBCDI (vice-president).

I would like to participate in BCBC to keep our industry moving forward for the benefit of all of our growers.

Region B- Satinder (Sukhi) Saini (Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam area - 3 year term)

I am writing to all to express my great interest to serve on the board of directors at the blueberry council of B.C. I have been a blueberry grower myself for a few years now and have developed a great passion in farming. With my experience in blueberry since I picked my first berry when I was 14 and working around several processing facilities, I can assure you I have seen the best and the worst time as a farmer. I have experienced everything from a bad winter to a low pollinated bloom and to a reduced berry price year after year. It has been a great frustration for everyone and I am willing to work on moving the growers forward so we can keep producing the worlds best blueberries. As a grower myself, I would like to see us working towards competing with the upcoming and fast-growing blueberry producing countries and hence a higher return on investment and also to sustain the environment.

I will work with all the growers in the region as I speak and write Punjabi well and try to break the barrier between the growers and the blueberry council on information sharing and awareness. I am an engineer by profession and certified in Project management and have been employed at the UBC Vancouver campus since I was 20. With my higher education background, it has laid out the foundation for me to acquire broad knowledge in blueberry farming with connections to sustainably and research. I have taken up management of a local blueberry farm gaining much greater experience with different varieties of blueberries. I have gone through the process of preparing the field, planting, picking, and faced the challenges of labor supply that has been shortening in the last few years. For all the farmers it has been challenging to mark a high return on investment with the high labor costs and plummeting berry market price. I am looking forward to work on different methods to tackle these problems and make the future for the growers a beneficial one. I am also preparing to take the blueberry production course this year with the University of Fraser valley to gain more knowledge and insight on different farming techniques and make them available to all the farmers.

With my knowledge in blueberry farming as well as the foundation and skills I have acquired in Project Management, I am fully confident that I can serve well in making strong analysis, reports and decisions that are required as a Director. My commitment as a director will be for the growers and to fully support them in every way possible. I will be working on moving us forward with better communication on growing skills and management of fields so to provide full

advantage in the upcoming seasons. If I am given the chance to serve on the Board of Directors, I will make sure I devote all my knowledge and time towards the great experiences that will come from it and to support the regions blueberry farming.

Region C – Jack Bates (Surrey, Delta, Richmond, Langley area - 2 year term)

I currently manage our family owned farm along with my three brothers and one nephew, in Ladner. I have been growing blueberries for the past 30 years and I am very active and knowledgeable in all aspects of farming. In addition to Blueberries, our farm also produces potatoes, corn and dairy products.

I have been, and still am, very involved in various committees within the Agricultural industry in BC. I have served for four years on the Blueberry Council, two years of that I've chaired the Board of Directors. I served eight years with Canada gap food safety with five of those years as chair for the Board of Directors. I served for five years with CHC (Canadian horticulture Council) and dedicated one of the five years as the chair of the Board of Directors.

I am currently the Vice Chair of Delta farmers Institute. In addition to these organisations, I am active with BC fresh veg and involved with a couple of non-for profits including the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and the Delta Agricultural Society.