



## 2024 OKSIR

### Directors

#### Voting Directors

**Tim Lavery**

*CSRD*

**Shirley Fowler,**

**2024 Acting  
Chair**

*RDNO*

**Rick Webber**

*RDCO*

**Rick de Jong**

*RDCO*

**George Bush**

*RDOS*

**Joginder Dhand**

*Fruit Grower, North*

**Tarsem Goraya,**

*Fruit Grower, Central*

**Walter Makepeace**

*Fruit Grower, South,  
Organic*

#### Non-voting Directors

**Dr. Susanna Acheampong**

*BC Ministry of Agriculture*

**Taras Pojasok**

*Agriculture and  
Agri-food Canada*

## Preliminary 2024 Season Results

The cold winter did not negatively impact the overwintering codling moth population. The warm summer was conducive to pest population growth during the 2nd generation, but 3rd generation activity was limited.

Overall, more wild moths were captured in 2024 than in 2023. This was partly due to improvements to our traps and partly due to actual increases in wild populations. The program found codling moth increases in areas with historically very low pest populations, including Oliver, Cawston and Keremeos. Efforts to contain codling moth increases in those areas were made and will continue into 2025.

## OKSIR Sets Increase for 2025 Value Tax at 4%

Year-over-year increases to the value tax have been included in the five-year financial plans since 2021. Prior to that, the Board had kept a \$1.7M value tax revenue cap in place from 2010- 2021, falling behind inflation and relying on reserves to fund shortfalls.

Sales revenues have been growing and contribute impactfully to covering part of the Program's expenses, but tax increases continue to be needed this year and into the future to cover the full costs of the program.

## Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project (CCLSP)

The CCLSP is just over a year into its cross-commodity work. In September, the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council endorsed five funding applications. Two of these applications included two years of ongoing operational funding for the BC DAS Program, which SIR hosts, and a feasibility study for expansion of BC DAS to wine grapes.

## Tree Fruit Industry Report

Melissa Tesche, BCFGGM, gave a brief report about the state of the tree fruit industry after the unexpected mid summer closure of BC Tree Fruits (BCTF). All BCTF growers were directed to find alternate homes for their apple crops this year. Individual growers needed to find a new packer, achieve independent food safety certification, obtain bins to pick crops into and find a new source of horticultural support. A lack of cold and controlled atmosphere storage for the crop and potential pricing challenges from the market added to the chaos.

Melissa Tesche concluded that it is too early to tell how these changes might impact apple acreages in the future but that the apple sector will undoubtedly look different next year.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, November 22, 2024**, in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, with option for online participation.

