



## BOARD REPORT: April 4, 2025

1450 K.L.O. Road, Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4  
P: 250-469-6187, 1-800-363-6684  
[www.oksir.org](http://www.oksir.org)

### 2025 OKSIR Directors

#### Voting Directors

**Shirley Fowler,**  
2025 Chair  
RDNO

**George Bush**  
2025 Vice Chair  
RDOS

**Tim Lavery**  
CSRD

**Rick Webber**  
RDCO

**Kevin Kraft**  
RDCO

**Joginder Dhand**  
Fruit Grower, North

**Steve Day,**  
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

### OKSIR Welcomes New Grower Director to the Board

At the April meeting we welcomed Director Steve Day to the SIR Board. Steve Day is a lifelong pear and apple grower in Kelowna. Director Day takes over the Central Okanagan Grower position.

### Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, March 20, 2025

In February 2025 the SIR Board sent the Minister of Agriculture a funding request letter. On March 20, 2025 Chair Shirley Fowler and GM Michelle Cook met with Minister Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, in Kelowna and discussed the funding request. Minister Popham is a big supporter of SIR and truly understands the value of the Program. Minister Popham knows the cost saving to growers that SIR provides, and the positive impact the SIR Program has on the region.

### SIR Facility Operations, SIR Field Operations and Moth Sales:

In 2025 the Osoyoos SIR rearing facility will be producing ~9M moths each week for Okanagan and Similkameen apple and pear growers. Sterile moth releases will begin in the Similkameen valley, Osoyoos and Oliver areas on April 22, 2025 and full release in all service areas from Salmon Arm to Osoyoos will begin April 28, 2025. Growers and residents alike will begin to see SIR staff out and about on ATVs in the orchards.

In 2025, moths are being carried over the border three times per week, up from twice per week the last few years, for commercial release in Washington orchards. An additional ~4.4M moths will be produced by SIR's rearing facility for sale to US growers. Moth sales will begin on April 25, 2025.

In February SIR hosted a tour of the rearing facility for @applegirlkait, who created a short video that can be found at this link

<https://www.instagram.com/applegirlkait/reel/DGEXYUzXPXz/>

### Trapping Change Update

In 2025, SIR is slightly reducing the number of traps it operates. We will be using a more dynamic trapping approach to monitoring and will concentrate resources in the area where they are needed most and scale back the overall trapping effort in areas where wild moths are absent.

The benefits of reducing our trap network include lower equipment and field staff costs. In addition, we minimize the number of our sterile moths being killed in traps. These benefits will be achieved while still maintaining a comprehensive trap network to monitor the wild codling moth population as well as the performance of our sterile moth population.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, June 6, 2025**, in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, with option for online participation.

