



## BOARD REPORT: January 29, 2021

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[www.oksir.org](http://www.oksir.org)

### 2021 OKSIR Directors

#### Voting Directors

**Shirley Fowler,**  
**2021 Chair**  
RDNO

**Amarjit Lalli,**  
**2021 Vice Chair**  
Fruit Grower, Central

**James Baker**  
RDCO

**George Bush**  
RDOS

**Dave Dobernigg**  
Fruit Grower, North

**Tim Lavery**  
CSRD

**Walter Makepeace**  
Fruit Grower, South,  
Organic

**Brad Sieben**  
RDCO

#### Non-voting Directors

**Dr. Susanna  
Acheampong**  
BC Ministry of  
Agriculture

**Taras Pojasok**  
Agriculture and  
Agri-food Canada

### 2021 Chair and Vice-Chair Elected; New Director Joins the Board

The SIR Board is pleased to announce that Director Shirley Fowler, RDNO (Armstrong) and Grower-Director Amarjit Lalli, Central (Kelowna) were elected on January 29, 2021 as the SIR Board Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The Board welcomes a new appointment to the table, Director Tim Lavery, CSRD (Salmon Arm). All other appointments remained the same as 2020.

The SIR Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the outgoing CSRD Director, Chad Eliason. Director Eliason served six years on the SIR Board, and his enthusiasm and business sense will be missed.

### No Tax Increase for 2021 - SIR Financial Plan Adopted

The SIR Board gave three readings and adopted Bylaw No. 37, SIR 2021-2025 Five Year Financial Plan that outlines the Boards \$4.1M annual budget. The adoption of this budget confirms that there is **no increase in total tax requisition to the Regional Districts for 2021 and the parcel tax remains at \$139 per acre** of planted codling moth host trees. **There has been no increase in total requisition since 2010.**

The Board acknowledged that this would likely be the final year of frozen tax rates, noting that sales of excess product has allowed the Board to stave off increases but can not offset them entirely.

### BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries to Develop Industry Stabilization Plan

The SIR Board received a letter from the Director of Industry Development for the MofAFF, highlighting concerns about the future of the apple industry in the Okanagan after multiple years of declining returns. The Ministry is committed to ensuring the viability of Agriculture and is developing a workplan that will include developing a Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Plan. As an industry stakeholder and partner, SIR has been invited to participate in the process.

SIR's finances have been impacted by the decline in apple acreage, as the total revenues from parcel tax continue to shrink. At the beginning of the program, there were 20,000+ acres of pomme fruit. At the beginning of 2021, there are just 7500 acres remaining. The sale of excess capacity from the facility has helped to stabilize the finances of the SIR Program, and over the coming year, the SIR Board will explore financial models that could keep the quality of the program high, and the costs to tax payers low, by continuing to grow sales and increase profit margins.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 9:00 a.m. on **Friday, March 12, 2020** at RDCO.

