



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,
Food & Fisheries

Taras Pojasok
Agriculture and
Agri-food Canada

OKSIR Drone Program Takes Flight

After two years of trials, and delays due to changing federal regulations and covid-19, OKSIR has operationalized the use of drones. Over 250 acres of orchard in South East Kelowna were selected for weekly sterile moth releases using drones for this first season of operations. The program hopes to realize significant time and labour savings from the use of drones, which have been shown to be gentler on the moths as well.



BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Industry Stabilization Initiative Continues

The BCMAFF is nearing the end of the engagement phase of their Industry Stabilization Initiative. So far, the team has held 10 grower engagement session aimed at determining the many factors behind the sharp decline of the apple industry. Poor grower returns are an overriding concern, with labour challenges, increasing cost of production, competition from Washington, and lack of extension identified as some of the driving factors. More grower engagement sessions and several topic-focused engagement sessions will be held before the end of the month, at which point the initiative will begin drafting their stabilization plan.

OKSIR Sends Letter of Request to Minister of Municipal Affairs

The OKSIR Board has sent a letter to the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, to request the Ministry's support in pursuing an Order in Council to implement the new approach to apportioning the SIR Program's annual value tax burden among the regional district partners. The new approach was developed by a working group made up of senior staff and elected officials from each of the RD partners, and it has since been endorsed by the SIR Board of Directors and by all four RD Boards of Directors.

The Board recognizes that workload challenges being experienced by the Ministry during the pandemic, and having sent the letter of request, is looking forward to action on the file in the late summer of 2021.

2020 Audited Financial Statements Approved

The Board approved the 2020 Audited Financial Statements as presented by Markus Schrott, CPA, CA, Partner BDO. The auditors did not encounter any issues that needed to be brought forward, and they commended the RDCO Finance staff for their impressive work in maintaining and preparing the financial statements. OKSIR would like to extend their appreciation to the RDCO finance team for another year of top-notch service.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 9:00 a.m. on **Friday, July 23, 2021.**

