



**BC Wine Grape Council**

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To all wineries and grape growers

**Re: 2017 BCWGC Levy**

Harvest is nearing completion and I want to remind you of the BCWGC levies. These levies, used for industry R&D and education (and separate from the BCWA levies for VQA wines), are mandatory and remain at \$10/short ton (2,000 lbs. or 909 kg) or \$11/metric tonne (1,000 kg). As well GST must also be deducted from the total levy amount. They are **collected at the first point of sale** and all wineries growing grapes and/or purchasing grapes for processing from Mainland BC are required to deduct this levy and remit them to the BC Wine Grape Council. Wineries on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are exempt from remitting levies on *their own grapes* but **must** deduct and remit levies on all grapes purchased from Mainland BC. Custom crushing and processing facilities who take possession of the grapes are responsible for collecting and remitting the levies. Where these same facilities are processing grapes on behalf of a licensed winery, the licensed winery is responsible for collecting and remitting the levy.

**What are the levies used for?**

The funds collected from the levies are used primarily for research and development, program incubation (including the Sustainable Winegrowing BC) and educational workshops. Current initiatives include:

- Developing curriculum for the Viticulture Labour Market Program; launched with the support of the Province of British Columbia at Okanagan College in Fall 2017
- Launching Sustainable Winegrowing British Columbia [www.sustainablewinegrowingbc.ca](http://www.sustainablewinegrowingbc.ca)
- Health & Safety Workshops
- Winery lab proficiency program
- Annual wine & grape conference
- Producing the annual crop report

Current projects that are supported by BCWGC include:

- Population dynamics of yeast fermenting Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wine must
- Beauveria bassiana isolates
- Deficit irrigation and crop size adjustment strategies for improving the concentration of aromatic compounds in white grapes in British Columbia climates
- Crown Gall disease of grapevines in British Columbia; detection and quantification in nursery material and vineyard soil and identification of biocontrol strains
- Profiling saccharomyces cerevisiae populations in Okanagan Pinot Noir vineyards
- Studies of groundcover vegetation for improved sustainability and management of pests of grapes in BC
- Investigation of Grapevine Leaf Roll Associated Viruses Infecting Grapes in BC
- Epidemiological and diagnostic studies of grapevine trunk diseases to develop and implement effective disease management strategies in British Columbia
- Factors Effecting Winter Grapevine Bud Hardiness

- Canopy Management: The economics and quality impacts of leaf removal, cluster positioning and shoot positioning
- Classic breeding of low volatile acidity and low hydrogen sulphide producing yeast strains

The BC Wine Grape Council also uses levy funds to liaise with government agencies and other organizations regarding water, pest, land, and air issues. For all that we provide please view our website at [www.bcwgc.org](http://www.bcwgc.org).

**Reporting** - New this year you will have the opportunity to submit your report via our new online member portal or by completing the electronic form and submitting by email. Please contact our Executive Director, Kate Durisek, ([info@bcwgc.org](mailto:info@bcwgc.org)) to get your personal login credentials for the online member portal. The deadline to provide your report is **December 31, 2017**.

**Invoicing** – We will invoice the wineries for the levies owing as soon as we receive your report. **Levies should be paid in full no later than March 15, 2017**. For more information, please call 250-809-7101 or contact Kate Durisek at [info@bcwgc.org](mailto:info@bcwgc.org).



Lynn Bremmer  
Chair, BC Wine Grape Council