



BC Wine Grape Council

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October 15, 2020

To all wineries and grape growers

Re: 2020 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 to the BC Wine Grape Council. Wineries on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are exempt from remitting levies on *Vancouver Island/Gulf Island grown 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.

Reporting - You now have the opportunity to submit your report via our online member portal or by completing the electronic form and submitting by email. Please contact our Executive Director, Kate Durisek, (info@bcwgc.org) to get your personal login credentials for the online member portal. The deadline to provide your report is **December 31, 2020**.

Invoicing – We will invoice the wineries for the levies owing as soon as we receive your report. **Levies are payable on receipt of invoice**. For more information, please call 250-809-7107 or contact Kate Durisek at info@bcwgc.org.

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:

- Launching Sustainable Winegrowing British Columbia and supporting the current certification program www.sustainablewinegrowingbc.ca
- Developing a Vineyard & Winery Resource Guide <http://www.bcwgc.org/resource-guide>
- Health & Safety Workshops
- Winery Lab Proficiency Program
- Coordinating the Enology & Viticulture conference and Insight Conference
- Producing the Annual Crop Assessment and the Acreage Report <http://www.bcwgc.org/reports>
- Representing British Columbia on the Canadian Clean Plant Certification Network (CGCN) Board
- Representing the wine grape sector within the BC Agricultural Council (BCAC)
- Important research projects (listed in full at the end of this letter)
- 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

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to notify you or send a tonnage report even if we did not produce any wine with BC Mainland Grapes?
 - a. Yes, we require all wineries to notify us of their tonnage including nil values each year.
2. If I am a grower selling to a winery, do I subtract the levy fees from my invoice to the winery, or do I charge the winery the levy amount?
 - a. Levies are collected at the first point of sale which means that growers typically deduct the levy amount from the invoice they give to the winery customer on the sale of their grapes.
3. If I am a grower, do I have to report to you the tonnage that I sold to a winery?
 - a. No, growers are not required to report tonnage to the BC Wine Grape Council, this is done by the wineries.
4. Are commercial wineries required to remit a tonnage report and pay the levy?
 - a. Yes, all wineries who purchase grapes grown on the mainland of BC are required to report their annual tonnage to BCWGC.

Current projects that are supported by BCWGC through the federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

- Field strategies to mitigate the impact of grapevine viruses in British Columbia (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – J. Urbez/ T. Lowery)
- Factors Effecting Winter Grapevine Bud Hardiness (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – C. Bogdanoff)
- Water and nutrient management strategies, and health promoting natural products can reduce the competition between grapevine and cover crops and enhance health and productivity of vineyards (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – M. Sharifi)
- Nitrogen Management in Viticulture and Enology: Improving grape and wine quality and enhancing vineyard sustainability through precision management of nitrogen and strategies to increase natural yeast assimilable nitrogen in grapes and wine (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – K. Usher)
- Unearthing the impacts of plant-parasitic nematodes on grapevine health and productivity (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – T. Forge)
- Novel approaches to IPM strategies for climbing cutworm in wine grapes (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – D. Henderson)
- Development of sustainable management practices for leafhoppers on grapes (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – T. Lowery)


- Using groundcover to control soil borne pathogens in grapevines (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – M. Hart)
- Crown Gall Disease of Grapevines: Identification of a biocontrol and sustainable management strategies (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – L. Nelson / T. Voegel)
- From nursery to vineyard, implementation of effective management strategies against grapevine trunk diseases in Canada (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – J. Urbez)
- Spatial characterization of terroir and other vineyard attributes using GIS and imaging tools to guide precision management for water and nitrogen and to detect infections by virus and other pathogens (C.A.P. 5-year project; 2018-2022 – P. Bowen)

*C.A.P. projects are co-funded under the Federal Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. A list of these projects can be found on our website: <http://www.bcwgc.org/rd-initiatives>

In addition to these levy funded projects, the BC Wine Grape Council is working in conjunction with the BC Grapegrowers' Association, the BC Wine Authority, the BC Wine Institute and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture to develop a 2019 Acreage Report which will be published in early 2021. The goal of the report is to conduct an in depth analysis of the vineyard landscapes and advise industry members on best practices in terms of healthy vine selection, sustainable farming practices, and the marketability of BC wines in both the domestic and global marketplace.

R&D Committee -This is the voluntary body that sets research priorities and evaluates project proposals for the Board. New members are always welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in participating.

Sincerely,



Kathy Malone
Chair, BC Wine Grape Council