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October 15, 2023

Re: 2023 BC Wine Grape Council Levy

With the 2023 harvest nearing completion I would like to take the chance to remind you of the BCWGC levies. These levies are used to fund industry R&D and education and are separate from BCWA levies for BC VQA wines. The levies are mandatory, and for 2023 they remain at \$10/short ton (2,000 lbs. or 909 kg) or \$11/metric tonne (1,000 kg). GST must also be deducted from the total levy amount.

Levies 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 vineyards. 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 have the opportunity to submit your report via our online member portal, or by completing the electronic form and submitting it by email. Please contact our Executive Director, Kate Durisek, (info@bcwgc.org) to get your personal login credentials for the online member portal if you do not already have them. The deadline to provide your report is **December 31, 2023**.

Invoicing – We will invoice 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:

- Supporting the Sustainable Winegrowing British Columbia (SWBC) certification program www.sustainablewinegrowingbc.ca
- Hosting the Vineyard & Winery Resource Guide <http://www.bcwgc.org/resource-guide>
- Supporting Vineyard Resiliency and Market Opportunity Assessment initiatives
- Working with industry and HSA providers to develop a Health & Safety Roadmap
- Winery Lab Proficiency Program
- Coordinating Annual Grower Day 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)
- Representing the wine grape sector within the BC Agricultural Council (BCAC)
- Research projects to support Enology and Viticulture in BC.
- 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.

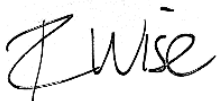
2. If I am a grower selling to a winery, do I subtract the levy fees from my invoice to the winery, or do I charge the winery the levy amount?
 - a. Levies are collected at the first point of sale which means that growers typically deduct the levy amount from the invoice they give to the winery customer 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.

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,



Ross Wise
Chair, BC Wine Grape Council