



2025 OKSIR

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Shirley Fowler,
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RDNO

George Bush
2025 Vice Chair
RDOS

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RD/CO

Kevin Kraft
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Fruit Grower, North

Steve Day,
Fruit Grower, Central

Walter Makepeace
Fruit Grower, South,
Organic

Non-voting Directors

Dr. Susanna Acheampong
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Andrea Kalischuk
Agriculture and
Agri-food Canada

OKSIR Sets Increase for 2026 Value Tax and Parcel Tax

The SIR value tax is collected from local residential taxpayers, and the SIR parcel tax is collected from apple and pear growers. Increases to both value tax and parcel tax rates are necessary in 2026 to ensure the SIR Program's financial sustainability. The Board agreed that increases must remain consistent between value and parcel tax rates for 2026 and passed a 10% tax increase to both.

The 2026 increase to the value tax will result in an average homeowner increase of \$1.01 per property across all program service regions.

The 2026 grower parcel tax has been set by the SIR Board at \$186.11 per acre.

The importance and benefits of the SIR Program to our region have been proven and the SIR Board continues to support growers by raising tax revenues to cover program costs and shift operational funding away from reserve dependency.

Keeping codling moth populations low means growers in our communities use less sprays, produce higher quality fruit, and maintain a more ecologically balanced land base. These benefits are a worthwhile investment.

Tree Fruit Industry Report

Adrian Arts, BCFGAs Executive Director, provided a brief update on the tree fruit industry. Algoma Orchards and Wildstone Capital have acquired the former BCTF packing plant and apples are being sold under the BCTF logo again in 2025.

In July, the Apple Marketing Commission (AMC) proposal was rejected by voters. In the absence of an AMC, the BCFGAs is now engaging with Minister Popham and several local packers to explore other options for collaborative marketing initiatives.

Mr. Arts spoke strongly in support of the SIR Program, emphasizing the significant financial burden that would fall on growers and the negative environmental impacts that would result if the SIR Program were shut down. He urged continued commitment and increased financial support from both regional districts and growers to ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

Stabilization Funding Received

Ms. Cook, SIR General Manager, announced that SIR received \$400,000 to be split between 2025 and 2026 from the Tree Fruit Stabilization Fund. The Cross Commodity Leadership Support Project (CCLSP) is thanked for their assistance with the funding application and CCLSP's Advisory Council is thanked for its support of the SIR Program.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, November 28, 2025**, in the RD/CO Woodhaven Boardroom, with option for online participation.

