

December 20, 2022
WGBC CEO UPDATE
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we finish up preparations for the holiday season and another year draws to a close, I wanted to take the time to thank our board, members, partners, and various stakeholders throughout the industry for taking the time and making the investment in supporting Wine Growers BC.

While the latest economic impact report indicated the total of all economic activity in British Columbia related directly or indirectly to wine is \$3.75 billion, an increase of \$983.18 million over 2015 \$2.77 billion total (+35.5%), and an increase of 86.7% from \$2 billion in 2011, 2022 was a challenging year for winegrowers across the province as the industry adjusted to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, inflation and supply chain challenges that have increased winery cost of goods.

Through your support, Wine Growers BC continues to be the leading BC wine marketing and advocacy organization in the province and are dedicated to helping our industry come out of the pandemic stronger than ever!

A bright spot this year was the introduction of the Wine Sector Support Program (WSSP) and a tribute to the leadership shown by Wine Growers Canada in mustering industry cooperation across Canada to ensure the success of our industry.

I hope this holiday season is an exceptionally good and safe one, and that the New Year brings you all much health, happiness and prosperity.

Please note that WGBC office will be closed from December 26, 2022 to January 2, 2023 inclusive, however, we will regularly be checking messages and will respond in due course.

THE RIGHT AMOUNT - JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

With the festive season fast approaching, many of us and many of those who enjoy our wines may enjoy a few more glasses of wine than in a typical week. With holiday celebrations, gatherings, and New Year's Eve, please help WGBC promote [The Right Amount](#) campaign to your customers.

The Right Amount is an interactive website that promotes responsible wine consumption. It is an approachable and informative site, complete with a standard [drinks calculator](#) and tips for consumers.

What's more, the site has a whole range of ready-to-use [design resources](#) for wineries to use to promote this message of moderation. The resources range

from neck tags (that read ‘Wine pairs best with moderation’) to postcards that could be used in your tasting room, to photos and images that you may consider using on your social media, to direct your customers to The Right Amount website. We encourage members to participate in this voluntary initiative – feel free to download all the design resources or a selection that best fits your needs. FEEDBACK SOUGHT: CANADA-UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

In March 2022, Canada and the United Kingdom began negotiations on a Canada-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The negotiations come after the U.K.’s departure from the European Union, which means they are no longer part of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Wine Growers Canada is in active discussions with Global Affairs Canada, to ensure the interests of the Canadian wine industry are well represented as they consider a standing committee on wine and spirits for issues that could include export certification to Geographical Indications and more. If established, such a committee would essentially mean a formal conduit specific to wine and spirits, as opposed to ad hoc intergovernmental or inter-industry discussions, and/ or the WTO as a mechanism for serious trade concerns.

Please get in touch with caroline@wgcanada.ca if you are an active or potential exporter to the U.K., and either have specific trade-related priorities you’d like to share, or have views on the creation of an ongoing committee on wine and spirits as part of the trade agreement.

November 30, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: WINE SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

Wine Growers Canada (WGC) reports that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has now published a template of the [Grant Agreement for the Wine Sector Support Program](#) (WSSP) on their website. All of the WSSP grant agreements with recipients will follow this template, with the designated fields populated specific to each individual recipient. By posting the grant agreement template in advance, recipients and/or their legal counsel can review the terms to help expedite the process.

WGC reviewed the grant agreement template to ensure that there were no surprises or challenges in store for wineries in this important stage. Grant agreement templates are standardized and used by a number of federal programs. For example Clause 4.1 pertaining to stacking of public funding is used for project funding that would only apply to WSSP applicants if that

company received public sector funding equal to the value of 100% of their wine production.

AAFC has also provided WCG an update on program timelines, indicating that application approvals are being finalized, and that recipients will begin hearing from AAFC program officials within the next week or two regarding grant agreements. While the approval process has taken longer than originally planned for, payments are expected to be processed in December 2022.

BCWA GENERAL MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENT

The BC Wine Authority Board of Directors has **announced** the appointment of Randy Bertsch to the position of General Manager of the BC Wine Authority. Randy will be replacing Scott Hennenfent who opted to retire earlier this year. Randy relocated to the Okanagan after serving more than 30 years in strategic leadership roles in the financial services industry on the Island and looks forward to working with the team, advisory committee, members, and government to ensure wines produced across BC are of marked quality, meet labelling regulations, and use correct geographic indicators. Randy will commence his role with the BCWA December 5, 2022.

WGBC welcomes Randy in his new role and thanks Scott for his service to the BC wine industry with best wishes in his retirement.

November 25, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

WINE GROWERS BC Q2 REPORT (JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022)

WGBC provides a quarterly review of activities, including marketing, communications, advocacy and more. This issue covers the second quarter (Q2) of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), in support of the board objectives laid out in the **WGBC Operational Plan** and in support of **Wine BC 2030 Long-Term Strategic Plan**.

[VIEW Q2 REPORT HERE](#)

FEDERAL AGRIMARKETING FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 10th the federal government made a formal announcement of an investment of up to \$990,866 through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriMarketing Program to Wine Growers Canada. The funding covers the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, with the formal announcement being delayed due to the pandemic.

The funding has and will help the Canadian wine industry increase export sales through targeted events and initiatives, including the Canadian pavilion at ProWein in Germany, an annual trade & media event in London, U.K., and in the U.S., as well as domestic events which help bolster international awareness of

Canadian wines. WGBC participates in the match-funding program in support of the [2021 - 2023 WGBC Wine Export Strategy](#).

UPDATE: DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE

The [Federal-Provincial-Territorial Alcohol Beverage Working Group](#) plans an upcoming in-person meeting, to make progress on direct-to-consumer interprovincial trade. The working group was established in 2019 to look at various feasibility options to move DTC forward. WGBC supports Wine Growers Canada is in their close contact with the working group, providing them background information and options for a successful DTC model, as momentum grows within their working group to push through progress on the interprovincial trade of alcoholic beverages.

October 27, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: BC LDB BC VQA REBATE

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is reminding BC Vintners Quality Alliance (BC VQA) suppliers that beginning January 1, 2023, excise duty will be deducted from the supplier cost when calculating the BC VQA rebate amount for eligible wine received into the LDB warehouse, on the assumption that all BC VQA wines delivered to the LDB are packaged on or after June 30, 2022.

In recognition that it may take additional time for wineries to move through excise exempt inventory packaged before June 30, 2022, the LDB will adopt a one-year transitional process. This process will allow BC VQA suppliers to apply for a temporary adjustment on their BC VQA rebate calculation for any remaining excise exempt inventory (product packaged prior to June 30, 2022) that is shipped to LDB warehouses. For more details, [click here](#).

The BC LDB rebate calculation's inclusion of excise will result in the unintended consequence of a unilateral decrease in the rebate and detrimental to BC wineries. Like the federal [Wine Sector Support Program](#), WGBC advocates for an adjustment to the BC LDB rebate calculation in order to help the BC wine industry adapt to ongoing and emerging challenges.

BC SMALL BUSINESS TAX RATE ACCESS EXPANDED

Previously, access to the small business tax rate was gradually reduced when the taxable capital of businesses was more than \$10 million. Access to the small business tax rate ended when businesses had \$15 million or more of taxable capital. With the recently announced change, access to the small business tax

rate will be gradually reduced when businesses have between \$10 million and \$50 million in taxable capital.

This includes businesses that have taxable capital between \$10 million and \$15 million, where business owners may decide not to invest in their business to acquire new equipment in order to keep access to the small business tax rate. This may look like a company, such as a winery, considering adding a production line to its operations, or a company needing to buy specialized equipment. For more details, [click here](#).

October 3, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

BC WINE GRAPE PERSISTENT SHORT CROP

With Crush 2022 underway, crop yields will be closely monitored for a comparison to the January 2022 WGBC study demonstrating that the industry has experienced a multi-year decline in crop yield.

In spring, 2022, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Foods supported the efforts of the BC wine grape industry to examine potential factors impacting BC wine grape production through initiation of the BC Vineyard Resilience study. The study utilized production and climate data, cross-jurisdictional reviews of other wine growing regions, and interviews with representative BC wine grape producers. Focusing on the subset of vineyards that responded consistently to the BCWGC's annual crop and acreage surveys from 2017 – 2021, the study found that while acreage remained relatively unchanged amongst these vineyards over the period, tons harvested declined precipitously following its peak in 2018 with a decline of 33% between 2018 and 2021.

[BC Vineyard Resilience Study, July 2022 >](#)

In addition to the study, the WGBC BC Vineyard Resilience Task Group engaged various grower stakeholders in a series of workshops to discuss the state of BC vineyards and make recommend steps to mitigate the short crop. Task group recommendations will provide input to WGBC government advocacy priorities to secure government support and ensure BC vineyards are best positioned to support the growth and success of the industry.

WINE GROWERS BC BOARD DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Following the recent resignation of medium winery-nominated director Darryl

Brooker, the WGBC board appointed Chris Turyk, Director of Marketing & Sales, Unsworth Vineyards as interim director until the next Annual General Meeting.

In addition to being the first WGBC director from Vancouver Island, Chris is passionate about the growth of the Cowichan Valley and through the success of the business attracted international attention with the sale of the family winery to Barbara Banke and Julia Jackson, proprietors of Jackson Family Wines. Chris and his father Tim continue to manage Unsworth and build the reputation of Cowichan Valley wines with the rest of the Unsworth team.

[Learn More about the WGBC Board of Directors >](#)

September 27, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

DEADLINE: WGBC'S SWIRL AROUND BC TRADE & MEDIA TASTING EVENT

Wine Growers BC is pleased to announce a NEW industry tasting event:

Swirl Around BC is a walk around tasting that offers the opportunity for our full member wineries to connect directly with key trade and media. An update to our pre-COVID *Colour Fall Release Tasting*, wineries are encouraged to apply and showcase up to four wines to the in-person VIP trade and media guest list from Vancouver and Victoria regions.

Swirl Around BC - Trade & Media Tasting Event

Vancouver Pan Pacific Hotel – Crystal Pavilion Ballroom

Thursday, November 3, 2022

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY >](#)

Deadline to apply to participate: October 17, 2022

Please note, participation is exclusive to WGBC full member wineries.

For further inquiries, [contact Kim Barnes](#), Marketing Director, Wine Growers British Columbia.

UPDATE: RESUMPTION OF BC LDB WHOLESAL E DISTRIBUTION

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch's (LDB's) distribution centres and wholesale customer centres have completed all orders placed prior to September 20 and the Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC) will inform customers when their order has been shipped.

The LDB thanks WGBC members for their continued patience as they remain one-week behind due to a continuation of higher than predicted volume which has impacted progress. LDB employees are working additional shifts and overtime to assemble and ship the high volume of orders received. Customers are advised to expect that it will take two weeks or more for service levels to return to normal and delivery timelines will be delayed until further notice.

In line with LDB resumption of operations, the Wholesale Supply Chain team will continue to work with vendors on order placement and replenishment of all stocked wholesale products into their distribution centres.

While attempting to receive and deliver non-stocked wholesale product (NSWP) as soon as possible, there will be continued delays. The LDB distribution centre is continuing to work closely with third-party warehouses to incorporate inbound NSWP in an effective and efficient manner while balancing inventory in the distribution centres.

The quality limit of three items per SKU per day (except for beer) remains for all hospitality orders submitted through BC Liquor Stores. WGBC will work with LDB to ensure this limitation can be lifted as soon as BC Liquor Stores have replenished inventory.

LDB distribution centres and WCC will operate as per a statutory day on Friday, September 30, in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This means that:

- WCC will be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- The distribution centres will continue to receive product for pre-booked appointments
- The distribution centres will continue to assemble and ship orders with reduced staffing
- The Demand Planning, Product Registration, Pricing, Imports and Enterprise Data Services (EDS) departments will be closed and re-open on Monday, October 3, 2022

August 30, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: BCGEU STANDING DOWN STRIKE ACTION

The British Columbia General Employee's Union (BCGEU) and the BC Government have made significant progress toward ending their labour dispute. As a show of good faith, **the BCGEU is standing down strike action** at the Liquor Distribution Branch's (LDB) warehouses and ending the ban on overtime.

As details of the pending LDB restart to operations and commencement of accepting orders from licensees across BC seeking to replenish depleted inventory are forthcoming, we will be working with the LDB to understand how industry can best support the efficient and fair flow of goods from their warehouses. We will offer further updates as soon as they are available.

WGBC MEMBER PORTAL NOW ON WINEBC.COM/INDUSTRY

Wine Growers British Columbia is pleased to announce the launch of our NEW FULL MEMBER PORTAL on WineBC.com/Industry. The purpose of this member portal is to offer you, our members, exclusive access to online content and resources including the recently completed Canada Landscapes Report for 2022 which is now available to full WGBC members who are logged in to the member portal.

All WGBC primary contacts and proprietors for member wineries should have received an email notification directly to re-set the password for your new member account on WineBC.com/Industry. If you did not receive an email notification or need assistance, [please contact Kelly Josephson here](#).

UPDATE: BC LCRB PICNIC AREA ENDORSEMENTS

The Liquor Policy Manual (LPM) now clarifies that Manufacturer Picnic Area endorsements may be located adjacent to Food Primary (FP) or Liquor Primary (LP) service areas, if the FP/LP licence is held by the same manufacturer licensee that holds the Picnic Area endorsement.

Please note that new applications for, or to amendments to, a Picnic Area endorsement will no longer be sent via the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch's (LCRB) [online portal](#) to local governments (LG) or Indigenous Nations (IN) for review of zoning and capacity information.

For more information about picnic area and lounge endorsements, please see:

- [The Liquor Policy Manual](#)
- [Manufacturer Terms and Conditions Handbook](#) (p.23-25)

If you have any questions about the application process for a lounge or picnic area endorsement, please email LCRB.SLA@gov.bc.ca.

August 18, 2022
WGBC CEO UPDATE
BC BUDGET 2023 CONSULTATION

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services released its report on the Budget 2023 consultation with 216 recommendations for the next provincial budget, including several submitted by Wine Growers British Columbia related to the BC wine sector.

The report provides a comprehensive summary of the priorities, concerns, and ideas shared by British Columbians across a range of areas with many highlighting climate change mitigation and resiliency, access to health care, and the need to address the rising cost of living as key themes.

HIGHLIGHTS TO NOTE:

- WGBC recommendation regarding [food and wine tourism](#) and ask for an annual \$2,000,000 investment in food and wine tourism marketing will generate 57,500 new visitors per year with an increase of \$55.5 million in new direct tourism revenue per year and an additional \$31.7 million of indirect spending
- WGBC recommendation to create more robust risk management programs to [support BC wine vineyard resiliency](#) to mitigate systemic short crop and to ensure BC vineyards are best positioned to support the growth and success of the industry
- WGBC recommendation to [increase BC's wine floor prices](#), that have remained flat for over two decades, and changing minimum price mechanisms to reflect alcohol content to help minimize accessibility to products that are more likely to enable harmful drinking

[Read the Full Report](#)

BC WINE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT

Wine Growers British Columbia recently released new data highlighting the momentum of the BC wine and grape economy pre-pandemic, which stands in contrast to 2020 data indicating a substantial decrease in tourism impact. The findings show that for the BC wine economy to re-capture the momentum and potential of its pre-pandemic growth, especially as it relates to tourism, strategic collaboration between government and industry will be required.

[Read the Media Release](#)

July 12, 2022
WGBC CEO UPDATE
MEMBER RESEARCH SURVEY RESULTS

In March of 2022, Wine Growers British Columbia partnered with Lux Insights to conduct a member feedback survey. Previous member surveys included those offered in 2015, 2017, and 2018.

Wine Growers British Columbia would like to thank all of those who responded to the latest member survey, and now, share the results with the wider membership. Find the [executive summary here](#), or view the [full report here](#). (Password: WGBCMember)

NEW MEMBER BENEFITS BOOKLET

As a response to survey insights, WGBC is pleased to release this new Member Benefits Booklet to increase awareness of WGBC member programs and benefits. [READ NOW](#).

WINE GROWERS BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFERS 1:1 MEETINGS FOR MEMEBERS

If you did not get a chance to complete the survey, we still welcome your comments and feedback. Please click below to schedule a meeting directly with one of our team members on the topic you are most interested in. If you prefer, feel free to send your feedback in an email to info@winebc.com.

BOOK A MEETING WITH US - SUMMER 2022

[Click here](#) to schedule a meeting with a member of the Wine Growers British Columbia team according to the focus area or program you are most interest in discussing. Meetings are by availability, offered for 15 minute time frames from now until Aug 31, 2022, and subject to change.

We look forward to speaking with you.

July 5, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: FEDERAL WINE SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM WEBINAR & RESOURCES

Wine Growers Canada has released a new one-pager detailing the Federal Wine Sector Support Program. [Read now](#).

In case you missed it, you can now view the recording of the Wine Sector Support Program Info Session Webinar [here](#).

The \$166.2 million Wine Sector Support Program (WSSP) provides short-term financial support to help licensed Canadian wineries transition and adapt to ongoing and emerging challenges that impact the financial resiliency and competitiveness of the wine industry.

Applicants can apply now through to August 12, 2022 to access the 2022-2023 program funding. Early application is encouraged to avoid potential delays.

[Click here for the Wine Sector Support Program Website](#)

[Click here for the online Application Guide](#)

[Click here for the WSSP Application Form in PDF](#)

For more information on the Wine Sector Support Program, please contact aaafc.wssp-pasv.aac@agr.gc.ca or call 1.877.246.4682

UPDATE: BC VQA REBATE PROGRAM

Changes to calculation of the BC VQA Rebate Program have been deferred until January 1, 2023. The LDB will provide updates this fall on the reporting and calculation process for excise duty that will go into effect Period 10, starting January 1, 2023, for BC VQA products received into the LDB warehouse.

For any questions on BC VQA rebates, please contact BCVQASupport@BCLDB.com.

For any questions on price changes, please contact WholeSalePricing@BCLDB.com.

June 29, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

FEDERAL WINE SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

Earlier today the Government of Canada, **announced** details of a new two-year, up to \$166-million Wine Sector Support Program to help strengthen the future of the wine sector.

In making the announcement, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, acknowledged the vibrant wine sector as a significant contributor to the country's economy, with growth taking place in all areas of the value chain, from grape growing to retail sales and tourism. The Minister reiterated the Government of Canada commitment to helping strengthen the future of the Canadian wine sector so that wineries continue to thrive domestically and in the global marketplace.

All licensed wineries in Canada that produce or contract out the production of bulk wine from primary agricultural products will be eligible for support under the program.

Wineries are asked to thoroughly [review the application process](#) in advance. Applications for the first year of the program can be submitted between July 4, 2022 and August 12, 2022.

PROGRAM APPLICATION INFORMATION SESSION - JULY 4, 2022

Wine Sector Support Program Application Information Session

Monday, July 4, 2022

10:00 AM (PST)

Wine Growers Canada is pleased to host an information webinar on the Government of Canada's new Wine Sector Support Program. Officials from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will provide a technical briefing on the program scope, timing, application process, eligibility criteria, and answer participant questions.

Webinar participants are encouraged to [review the application process](#) in advance to determine if they have any questions for the presenters. For more information on the session, contact Rob@WGCanada.ca.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

NEW OKANAGAN VALLEY SUB-GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SUB-GI)

On Tuesday, June 28, the Ministry of Agriculture [announced](#) six new sub-geographical indications, an official and protected term under BC law used to help consumers identify BC wines' origins that include: Lake Country; East Kelowna Slopes; South Kelowna Slopes; Summerland Bench; Summerland Lakefront; and Summerland Valleys as subdivisions of the Okanagan Valley GI. Wineries that produce wine made from a minimum of 95% of grapes grown within the defined boundaries of one of these new sub-GIs will be able to include the term on their labels. [Read the WGBC Media Release here.](#)

For any questions or concerns regarding the changes to these regulations, please contact:

Scott Hennenfent, BCWA General Manager
GM@BCVQA.CA
250.494.8896 ext.3

June 17, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

SUMMARY: CANADA REVENUE AGENCY FEDERAL EXCISE DUTY

- Any person involved in the manufacture (licensee), possession, or transportation of non-duty-paid wine must be licensed or registered with the CRA

- Federal excise duty is generally both imposed and payable on wine at the time of packaging
- Wine is considered packaged when it is in a container normally sold to consumers (i.e. bottled w/ final cap)
- Duty is generally payable by the person responsible for wine at the time of packaging
- Imposed at the rate applicable at the time duty becomes payable, not the year of production
- In case you missed it – [Download the CRA Outreach Presentation.](#)

Inventory at 11:59 PM on June 29, 2022

- The licensee should document their inventory of 100% Canadian wine that is packaged as of 11:59 PM on June 29, 2022
- Wine packaged prior to June 30, 2022 remains eligible for the 100% Canadian wine excise duty exemption
- Wine licensees claiming exemption must maintain adequate books and records to support the claim
- Duty paid wine (exempt as packaged prior to June 30) cannot enter an excise warehouse
- Non-duty paid wine (packaged after June 30) must enter an excise warehouse licence to defer duty payment (see below)

Excise Warehouse Licence (EWL)

- Any licensee seeking to defer duty on wine packed after June 30, 2022, will require an [Excise Warehouse Licence \(L6\)](#)
- To defer paying duty, wine packaged after June 30, 2022, must immediately be entered into an excise warehouse
- The wine licensee must own, rent, and/or have a service agreement in place for a licensed excise warehouse
- Wine licensees cannot possess non-duty-paid packaged wine unless they have an excise warehouse licence

Under certain conditions, an EWL can accommodate for “Additional Premises” approved by third-party warehouses (see below)

UPDATE: EXCISE WAREHOUSE LICENCE ADDITIONAL PREMISE

As excise duty is the responsibility of the wine licensee (winery), it is suggested that consideration for an Excise Warehouse Licence Additional Premise third-party warehouse include an agreement that contains, at minimum:

- Control of Premise: statement that CRA officers have access to the premises with reasonable notice
- Control of Operations:
 - Winery control/direction of all inventory movement that includes detailed auditable documentation (i.e. “paper trail” via software, email, etc.)
 - The agreement should state who is responsible for the payment of duty, particularly in the case of misplaced wine. The CRA will ultimately hold the excise licensee (the winery) responsible for the payment of duties
 - The winery must ensure that the third-party warehouse does not mix multiple wineries’ wines together (stacked on top or in front of each other). If a CRA officer were to go to inspect the wines, they must all be in one area together, not multiple locations through the warehouse
 - The winery must remit payment directly for third-party warehouse services (i.e. agent cannot pay on winery’s behalf)

As each individual winery’s situation may differ and the original enabling legislation does not contemplate all current warehouse arrangements, specific questions should be directed to the regional excise duty office: 1-866-330-3304

Or, in writing to:
Western Region – Coastal and Central BC TSO
Excise Duties & Taxes
468 TA-03
9755 King George Boulevard
Surrey, BC. V3T 5E1
Fax: 418-562-4997

June 8, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: CANADA REVENUE AGENCY FEDERAL EXCISE TAX SESSIONS

Earlier this week the CRA conducted online outreach sessions with a short briefing on the practical impact of the repeal of the excise duty exemption for

100% Canadian wine, as well as the basics of complying with this change in legislation, [learn more](#).

The presentation included contact details for further information regarding licence applications to call or write the regional excise office at 1-866-3309-3304 or write:

DOWNLOAD THE PRESENTATION

Excise Duties and Taxes
468 TA-03 9755 King George Boulevard
Surrey BC V3T 5E1

For more information about the presentation, contact the Excise Duty Alcohol Unit at LPALCOG@cra-arc.gc.ca.

UPDATE: BC LDB FEDERAL EXCISE DUTY & BC VQA REBATE IMPACT

As reported earlier, in recognition of the fact it may take some time for wineries to move through BC VQA inventory packaged before June 30, 2022 – wine that is therefore exempt from excise duty – the LDB will wait until Period 6, September 4, 2022, before commencing the process to deduct excise duty in calculating the BC VQA rebate. [Read More](#).

WGBC continues to advocate that going forward, the LDB consider BC VQA wine to remain duty paid as wineries are responsible for remitting excise directly. This will help reduce the complexity and reduce potential errors in the LDB excise remittance to the CRA and fulfill government's commitment to keep BC wine support programs whole.

BC Industry Recognition Awards presented at the

WINE GROWERS SYMPOSIUM | Virtual Event | July 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (PST)

Wine Growers British Columbia (WGBC) along with Wine Growers Canada, Wine Growers Ontario and Wine Growers Nova Scotia, will jointly host a virtual Canadian Wine Growers Symposium and Annual Awards Ceremony featuring high profile speakers addressing emerging political and market trends

and impacts of the pandemic, followed by the Wine Growers Canada and Wine Growers British Columbia Industry Recognition Awards.

Registration is complimentary for industry. [View the Agenda](#)
[Register Now](#)

June 2, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: CANADA REVENUE AGENCY FEDERAL EXCISE TAX SESSIONS

The CRA has been contacting wineries via a letter with details of a short briefing on the practical impact of the repeal of the excise duty exemption for 100% Canadian wine, as well as the basics of complying with this change in legislation. These [outreach sessions](#) will give you an opportunity to get answers to your questions about how the repeal will be administered by the CRA.

VIRTUAL OUTREACH SESSIONS (90 minutes each)

Monday, June 6 | 7:00 AM (PST) *English* [RSVP here >](#)

Monday, June 6 | 11:00 AM (PST) *French* [RSVP here >](#)

Tuesday, June 7 | 7:00 AM (PST) *French* [RSVP here >](#)

Tuesday, June 7 | 11:00 AM (PST) *English* [RSVP here >](#)

Please confirm your attendance by contacting: Alex Klein, Senior Rulings Officer, Excise Duty Alcohol Unit Alex.Klein@cra-arc.gc.ca or 343-552-0974.

Specifics to join or call in the meetings will be communicated directly later.

May 30, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

ACTION REQUIRED: FEDERAL EXCISE TAX

While awaiting details for implementation and funding for the Wine Growers Canada's Excise Replacement Program, wineries are reminded that an Excise Warehouse license is required to store packaged wine and [defer the payment of excise duty](#) including on-site, registered off-site or third-party (i.e., Container World) warehouses.

[EXCISE WAREHOUSE APPLICATION](#)

A reminder that completed applications must be mailed to:

Excise Duties and Taxes
468 TA-03 9755 King George Boulevard
Surrey BC V3T 5E1

The CRA has commenced communicating directly with wineries regarding further implementation information and details via pending online sessions early June, so wineries should check they receive accordingly.

CRA also recommended wineries anticipating less than \$120k paid duties per year (174k litres) can apply for bi-annual reporting.

BI-ANNUAL REPORTING APPLICATION

CRA's Regional Excise Offices can be contacted with any licence application or technical questions at 1-866-330-3304.

UPDATE: BC LDB FEDERAL EXCISE DUTY & BC VQA REBATE IMPACT

Based on a request by WGBC and in recognition of the fact it may take some time for wineries to move through inventory packaged before June 30, 2022 – wine that is therefore exempt from excise duty – the LDB will wait until Period 6, September 4, 2022, before commencing the process to deduct excise duty in calculating the BC VQA rebate. [Read More](#).

The LDB will provide updates over the summer on the reporting and calculation process for excise duty that will go into effect for Period 6, starting September 4, 2022. For any questions on BC VQA rebates, please contact LDB BC VQA Support: BCVQASupport@bcldb.com.

For any questions on price changes, please contact wholesalepricing@bcldb.com

May 16, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE: 100% CANADIAN WINE EXCISE DUTY EXEMPTION PHASE OUT

While confirmation of the implementation and funding for the Wine Growers Canada's Excise Replacement Program is still forthcoming, the CRA has provided an initial briefing with implementation details that included:

- Wines packaged for consumer sale (i.e. bottled) by June 30, 2022 qualifying as 100% Canadian will be eligible for exemption. All wine packaged after June 30, 2022, will not be.
- Wineries will be required to implement proper inventory procedures with acceptable measuring tools. All inventory to be counted on June 30, 2022.
- Wineries need to ensure they are current on excise reporting (many wineries are not). To date, the CRA has not enforced the reporting as

payable duties were not applicable to inventory prior to June 30, 2022. Penalties for late reporting will be enforced.

The CRA will be communicating directly with wineries regarding further implementation information and details via pending online sessions at the end of May, so wineries should check they receive accordingly.

In the meantime, wineries are encouraged to apply for an excise warehouse licence immediately with local excise offices anticipating receiving excise warehouse applications. CRA indicated the application process should not be onerous with a valid winery licence currently in place.

CRA also recommended wineries anticipating less than \$120k paid duties per year (174k litres) can apply for bi-annual reporting.

CRA's Regional Excise Offices can be contacted with any licence application or technical questions at 1-866-330-3304

[EXCISE WAREHOUSE APPLICATION](#) [BI-ANNUAL REPORTING APPLICATION](#)

UPDATE: BC LDB FEDERAL EXCISE DUTY & BC VQA REBATE IMPACT

The BC LDB has advised BC wineries the rebates for the LDB-distributed BC VQA wines are calculated based on the in-bond cost of the product and that calculation does not consider excise duty paid by the supplier. Accordingly, if suppliers do not make a Price Change Request for Period 4, July 3, 2022, LDB will assume that the current supplier price includes excise duty and deduct it from the supplier price to calculate the in-bond cost. This will result in the BC VQA Rebate payment reduced by 50% of the excise amount compared to the currently calculated amount.

WGBC has been in contact with the BC LDB regarding how best to accommodate exempt product bottled prior to June 30, 2022 (see above) as well as ensuring the BC VQA Rebate Program remains intact going forward.

For any questions on VQA rebates, please contact LDB [BC VQA Support](#).
For any questions on price changes, please contact LDB [Whole Sale Pricing](#)

UPDATE: BC LIQUOR & CANNABIS REGULATION BRANCH COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

Wine Growers BC recently met with BC LCRB for an update on Compliance & Enforcement and an introduction to the newly appointed Industry Compliance Officer.

Due to challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, inspections for wineries have occurred less frequently in recent years. However, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) liquor inspectors will be back visiting wineries around the province to conduct routine inspections, as they do for other licence types as part of their regular business operations. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure public safety, confirm compliance with licence requirements, and answer any questions you and your staff may have around your licence class.

As it has been sometime since wineries underwent an inspection with a liquor inspector it is suggested to re-familiarize yourself with resources available on the LCRB website, including:

- [General Liquor Licensee Resource and Information](#)
- [Maintaining a Manufacturer Licence Video](#)
- [The Role of the Liquor Inspector Video](#)

You are also encouraged to be up to date with the terms and conditions in the [Manufacturer Terms and Conditions Handbook](#).

April 27, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

WINE GROWERS BC FISCAL 2023 OPERATIONAL PLAN

March 9, 2022 – Wine Growers British Columbia Board of Directors approved the [Fiscal 2023 Operational Plan](#). The plan details Fiscal 2023* strategies and tactics in achieving the annual board-set objectives, and in support of the [Wine BC 2030 Long-Term Strategic Plan](#).

The Annual Operational Plan has been developed to address the current environment while still retaining the flexibility necessary to help industry and member wineries meet new and emerging challenges. WGBC staff will lead the execution of the plan and work in collaboration with key industry partners and organizations in both the wine and tourism industries. Many of the strategies require a multi-faceted approach to succeed as well as industry-wide collaboration including winery and grower participation and resource allocation with progress reported [quarterly](#).

*Fiscal Year 2023 – April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 [READ NOW](#)

WINE GROWERS BC FISCAL 2023 BUDGET

March 9, 2022 – At the same meeting, the WGBC Board of Directors approved the Fiscal 2023 Budget that included a one-time reduction in Fiscal 2023 quarterly member dues from \$0.10/litre of the previous year's reported provincial 100% BC wine sales to \$0.05/litre. The board felt the reduction was justified given the current inflation and cost pressures faced by member wineries, staff's securing government grants and contribution from the [WGBC Wines of BC Store](#) fee.

The board is confident the budget supports the objectives set out in the Fiscal 2023 Operations Plan's (see above) multi-faceted approach to succeed and staff's proven record for industry-wide collaboration including winery and grower participation and resource allocation.

Members can expect to see the reduction in WGBC member dues in their FY2023 First Quarter invoice sent out the end of May.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Wine Growers British Columbia's annual recognition awards include the Award of Distinction, and Industry Recognition Award. [Learn More](#).

Nominations have now opened to recognize our industry peers and commend them on their passion, determination, and perseverance in the promotion of certified 100% BC wine.

NOMINATE AN INDUSTRY PEER

Wine Growers Symposium

Join Wine Growers British Columbia (WGBC), Wine Growers Canada, Wine Growers Ontario, and Wine Growers Nova Scotia, for the virtual Canadian Wine Growers Symposium and Annual Awards Ceremony on July 13, 2022 (save the date!).

April 11, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

2022 FEDERAL BUDGET EXCISE DUTY EXEMPTION

Wine Growers Canada has confirmed in their [2022 Federal Budget Summary](#) that the excise exemption will be repealed by announcing the proposed legislative amendments to the Excise Act. This means that on July 1, 2022, every 750ml

bottle of wine will face a new 51 cent per bottle (68.8 cents per liter) excise tax, which will add \$6.19 to a 9L case of wine.

The excise duty is also indexed annually to the rate of inflation and based on budget estimates inflation will rise by 3.9 percent in 2022. This means that the excise duty rate will rise to at least 71.5 cents per litre on April 1, 2023, and with inflation currently at its highest levels since 1991, the cumulative annual impact is significant.

Further, all non-packaged 100% Canadian wine inventory remaining at midnight on June 30, 2022, will also be subject to excise duty under federal law, even though it was produced when the law zero-rated all excise duty on these wines. WGC estimates that the excise duty cost of 100% Canadian wine inventory that was produced, but not packaged before July 1, 2022 (excise is applied when wine is packaged) is estimated at about \$70 million.

WINE SUPPORT PROGRAM

In Budget 2021, the federal government committed \$101 million over 2-years (2022-2024) to develop a wine support program to address the pending loss of the excise exemption. Given that the excise exemption will be repealed in 11 weeks, Wine Growers Canada (WGC) and Wine Growers BC (WGBC) are extremely disappointed that the Government neglected the opportunity to give industry the certainty it required by providing details on the design and mechanics of the proposed wine support program. \$101 million is insufficient to replace the excise exemption and Budget 2022 confirmed that projected federal excise revenue from 100% Canadian wine in 2022-2024 is \$135 million, a shortfall of \$34 million.

Over the next few weeks, WGC will escalate its lobby efforts with federal ministers, senior government officials and MPs to ensure that the final announcements anticipated this May will include a wine support program that is sufficiently funded and seek a wine support program extension beyond the current timeframe.

WGBC encourages all wineries, growers, and employees to contact your Member of Parliament and explain the impacts of that this new tax will have on your business, your employees and your community including federal Member of Parliament Tracy Gray (Kelowna-Lake Country), who has launched an [e-petition](#) calling upon the Government of Canada to freeze the automatic escalator excise tax increase.

[SIGN THE E-PETITION](#)

UPDATE: EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANDED SERVICE AREAS (TESAs)

After months of sustained advocacy by WGBC and our BTAP industry partners, we are pleased to announce that the provincial government has extended the TESA provision to March 31, 2023.

Manufacturers do not need to apply to the LCRB for an extension, and there will be no fee charged. Approved TESAs must remain in compliance with local bylaws and requirements, all other requirements related to TESA authorizations remain the same.

[Click here](#) to read the policy directive update and [here](#) to read the government press release.

In the meantime, WGBC continues to advocate for a “[By the Glass](#)” [endorsement](#) similar to Ontario, that automatically allows BC wineries to offer their wine in prescribed serving sizes throughout the manufacturing site in support of providing an enhanced tourist experience or fulfilling an educational purpose.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

INPUT: TIED HOUSE REGULATION IN THE LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSING ACT

The Liquor Control and Licensing Act currently permits a Tied House arrangement between a liquor manufacturer (brewery, winery, or distillery) and a maximum of three of its own offsite establishments. For example: A brewery can sell its products in a maximum of three licensed establishments that are under the same ownership as the brewery.

Several years ago the exception to allow sales in a maximum of three offsite establishments was introduced. The intent of this policy was to restrict manufacturers from giving themselves an unfair advantage. However, the policy was designed before the emergence of craft manufacturing here in BC and has mainly inhibited smaller producers from gaining the same foothold in the market as larger manufacturers.

This policy is currently being discussed and many on-premise licensees are of the opinion that the government should eliminate restrictions. This opinion is based on consumer choice and the necessity to provide a selection of product options (i.e. no pub or restaurant is only going to sell just one alcohol product given today's competitive market).

ABLE BC supports the removal of the current maximum of three establishments, as it is unlikely any on-premise consumption establishments would want to sell product from only one manufacturer but wants to hear from manufacturers, including wineries.

[Click here](#) to fill out a short survey and share your opinions on Tied House regulations.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

UPDATE:BC LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH CATEGORY MANAGERS

The BCLDB announced that , effective the beginning of P3 (June 5, 2022), Barbara Philip, MW, will manage the BC VQA, in addition to European Wines, BIBC and other Canadian Wines, alongside long-time BC VQA portfolio manager Stephen Schiedel now responsible for New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Sparkling and Cask Wines.

BEST WISHES THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Wine Growers British Columbia wishes you a relaxing and enjoyable Easter long weekend, may it be filled with family, friends, great wine and hearty meals. Please note that the WGBC office will be closed Thursday, April 14 at 12:00 PM, to re open Tuesday, April 19 at 9:00 AM.

AND HAPPY APRIL BC WINE MONTH!

February 28, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

UPDATE ON TEMPORARY EXPANDED SERVICE AREA (TESA) ASSOCIATED WITH WINERY SAMPLING AREAS

Wine Growers BC has been working with the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) to mitigate challenges wineries are experiencing making TESAs associated with their sampling areas permanent.

Accordingly, [Policy Directive 22-01](#) was announced last Friday to clarify the options available and advise of recent policy changes which will provide greater flexibility within those options.

Policies that apply to picnic area endorsements have changed to provide additional flexibility in application requirements and their use, while also maintaining the public interest. Local governments and First Nations have also been notified of this policy change.

Manufacturers seeking to make TESAs associated with outdoor sampling areas permanent may choose one of the following options:

- Apply for a lounge endorsement with a patio
 - Provides the most flexibility in hours and capacity, but has more extensive application requirements
 - Allows you to sell and serve alcohol outside, with food
 - Application fee of \$330, requires local government or First Nation (LG/FNs) recommendation and public consultation
 - Allow for seven months processing time for this application type
- Apply for a picnic area endorsement
 - Allows patrons to consume samples outdoors from other service areas however with more restrictive terms and conditions than a lounge patio. For example, liquor cannot be served in the area and closing hours are half an hour after sunset
 - Application requires LG/FNs to confirm zoning
 - No application fee
 - Allow for five months processing time or this application type

The LCRB strongly recommends that manufacturers consider their needs and carefully review the policies below relating to lounge patios and picnic areas before deciding which application to submit.

For more information on picnic area and lounge endorsements, please see:

- Pages 40-42 of the [Liquor Policy Manual](#)
- Pages 23-25 of the [Manufacturer Terms and Conditions Handbook](#)

Please note, if you intend to make your TESA permanent, we encourage you to submit your application immediately to avoid the risk of disruption to your business. For instructions on making your TESA permanent [click here](#).

Questions about the application process for a lounge or picnic area endorsement should be directed via email to LCRB.SLA@gov.bc.ca.

Questions about this policy change should be directed via email to LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca

VIRTUAL INSIGHT CONFERENCE MARCH 7 TO 8, 2022

Break Out Sessions are now open and part of the registration process!

Register for your ticket to the upcoming Insight Conference and select your preferred Breakout Sessions for Day Two. Your selection includes:

'Key Insights, BC Export Guides'

'Plant Health and Economic Impact of Viruses'

'Where to Place Digital Marketing Dollars to Sell Wine in 2022'

'Creating a Vineyard Management Plan with SWBC'

and much more in the [two-day agenda](#).

Use the WGBC Members Promo Code: WGBCMember22

Virtual Ticket: \$40.00 | Member Price: \$25.00

[GET YOUR TICKETS NOW](#)

Please note, the remaining available tickets are all virtual access tickets. The limited in person tickets are now sold out.

February 18, 2022

WGBC CEO UPDATE

WGBC EXCISE TAX UPDATE WEBINAR

In case you missed it, you can now view the recording and read the Q&A Report from the Wine Growers British Columbia Excise Tax Webinar held last Thursday, February 10.

[Watch Recording](#) | [Read Q&A](#)

As part of the webinar, Wine Growers Canada (WGC) provided an update on the Wine Growers Quality Enhancement Program, key highlights include:

- Program design elements being finalized based on the WGQEP blueprint (included in the presentation)
- WGC is working to ensure that program funding is sufficient to cover all wine production at a value no less than the indexed excise duty rate
- WGC is seeking grandfather provisions to ensure that all existing 100% Canadian wine inventory volume (bulk and bottled), at midnight June 30, 2022, face a “zero cents per liter” duty paid excise rate
- WGC is seeking an extension to program funding in Budget 2022 to at least 2030

Please note that the recently announced BCLDB [2022 Federal Excise Duty Rate Change Notice](#) pertains to the April 1 escalator effect on product currently subject to excise tax and that will be included going forward on 100% Canadian wine when exemption ends at midnight June 30, 2022.

INSIGHT CONFERENCE 2022

March 7 to 8, 2022
Virtual and In-Person Event
Online & Kelowna Yacht Club

Wine Growers British Columbia, in partnership with the BC Wine Grape Council, BC Grapegrowers' Association and the BC Wine Authority, are thrilled to host the annual Insight Conference for the BC wine industry on March 7 and 8.

This year's conference will be hosted over two-days as a virtual and in-person event:

- Day One will be hosted as a 'hybrid' event to accommodate both in-person and virtual speakers and guests cohesively (limited in-person capacity).
- Day Two will be hosted virtually and will once again include sector-focused break-out sessions which allow you to choose sessions and presenters most relevant to you. Once you have registered for the conference, watch for further details on how to choose your preferred virtual break-out sessions

Early Bird Pricing (\$5 off) available until 11:59 PM TODAY (February 18, 2022).

[Get Your Tickets Now](#)

UPDATED: FOOD AND LIQUOR SERVING PREMISES PHO ORDER

Recent changes to the [Food and Liquor Serving Premises Orders](#) include:

- All restrictions have been removed i.e. closure of liquor serving only premises and allowance for them to open if they provided full meal service, requirements to prevent congregating, seating restrictions, spacing restrictions, table size limits, staffing requirements, closure of dance floors and prohibition of dancing
- Cross references to [Face Coverings and Workplace Safety Orders](#)

- Proof of vaccination requirements are maintained
- Changes to the [Gatherings and Events Orders](#) include:
- Deletion of restrictions on events (although Face Coverings and Workplace Safety Orders still apply) i.e. personal and organized gatherings, inside and outside, can happen without restrictions except for mask wearing and proof of vaccination checking in organized gatherings, adult sports tournaments can happen, exercise, fitness and dance restrictions removed

Proof of vaccination requirements retained

January 26, 2022

**WGBC CEO UPDATE
APPLY NOW TO MAKE TEMPORARY EXPANDED SERVICE AREA'S (TESA)
PERMANENT**

The TESA provisions in the LCLR will expire on June 01, 2022. The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) is no longer accepting new applications, so to operate your existing TESA permanently you must apply to the LCRB for a permanent extension of your licensed area.

Wineries who are serving samples outdoors using a Temporary Expanded Service Area (TESA) and do not have a lounge endorsement, must apply for a lounge endorsement to make their outdoor TESA permanent. The instructions for Manufacturer licensees vary depending on the licence endorsements, [read more](#).

WGBC has expressed to the LCRB the challenges some wineries are experiencing in making permanent TESAs associated with sampling areas and been advised that the LCRB is prioritizing work to identify approaches to support licensees in this process.

Accordingly, it is important that effected wineries apply ASAP to indicate industry interest in making permanent temporary expanded tasting areas.

In the meantime, wineries can conduct [guided tours with tastings](#) on their premises and properties without a specific endorsement.

VINTAGE 2021 SHORT CROP

With back-to-back short crops severely affecting the 2019 and 2020 BC VQA vintages, stakeholders across the BC wine industry were hoping for a return to

traditional wine grape crop yields. However, despite wine grape growers' best efforts, our forecasts suggest that the industry is set for yet another material short crop in 2021, perhaps the worst in at least 9 years.

Accordingly, Wine Growers BC is undertaking an industry collaborative consultation and analysis project to better identify the contributing factors with recommendations to secure the resiliency of the provincial wine grape crop and for our continued future success of our industry.

In the meantime, to help mitigate the current short crop. Industry is requesting that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries exercise its authority over the Wines of Marked Quality Regulation to allow temporary changes to the BC VQA 100% BC blending rules for 2021 vintage wines and increase the introduced volume from prior or later vintages (2020 and/or 2022) from 15% to 25%, from any BC DVA.

WINE GROWERS BC EXCISE TAX WEBINAR (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PST, FEBRUARY 10, 2022)

With the pending loss of the federal excise duty exemption scheduled for July 1, 2022, [register now](#) to attend this webinar hosted by Miles Prodan, President & CEO, Wine Growers BC, Dan Paszkowski, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wine Growers Canada, and Kristian Hui, Managing Partner, CSL Consultants. GROUNDWATER WATER RIGHTS WEBINAR (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM PST, JANUARY 27, 2022)

The risk of serious drought is of increasing concern to wine growers; yet most of us do not understand how water rights will be allocated and rationed under the new Water Sustainability Act.

[Register](#) to hear a panel of experts discuss your rights to water for irrigation and how they are being impacted by the implementation of the Water Sustainability Act.

The webinar is being chaired by Al Hudec of Farris LLP, with panelists Ryan Rhodes of Western Water Associates, Andrew Petersen of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and Ray Reilly of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

January 10, 2022
WGBC CEO UPDATE
BEST OF THE NEW YEAR

Wishing everyone the best of the New Year and hope you had a chance to spend time with friends and family over the holidays.

As we head into 2022 and another year enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change impact, supply chain interruptions and ongoing cost increases, the BC wine industry continues to feel the strain of tremendous uncertainty and financial hardship.

Despite these difficulties, BC's wine industry continues to prove its resilience in reacting to the challenges thrown our way. Everyday BC wine growers are finding new and innovative ways to fight for our industry and the economic impact it provides our province.

Likewise, as your industry representative and advocate WBGC staff and volunteer board and committee members are working with our industry peers and governments at all levels for positive solutions to health restrictions aimed at combating the Omicron variant, rising business costs, ongoing labour shortage and the need for overdue liquor policy and licensing changes,

Your input, comments and concerns are always welcome as we strive to do what's best for our industry. Feel free to contact me directly: mprodan@winebc.com.

-Miles Prodan, CEO & President, Wine Growers British Columbia

SAFE SCREEN BC

Safe Screen BC has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) to help businesses across the province access rapid antigen tests and set up onsite rapid COVID-19 workplace screening programs for asymptomatic employees.

Safe Screen BC provides businesses with the toolkits, resources and guidance needed to access rapid antigen tests and set up onsite rapid COVID-19 workplace screening programs for employees and staff. The program is unable to support companies looking to conduct screening for clients, customers, patients, visitors and family members.

If interested in joining the program, please register for an information session [here](#). If you have any questions, please refer to [frequently asked questions](#) for more program information including program fees.

PAID SICK LEAVE NOW IN EFFECT

Effective January 1, 2022.

Under the Employment Standards Act employees are now entitled to employer paid leave for personal illness and injury. This new, permanent paid sick leave entitlement, provides up to 5 paid days and 3 unpaid days of job-protected leave each year for eligible employees.

The BC Employment Standards Branch (ESB) [website](#) provides information for employees and employers regarding the application of the new paid sick leave entitlement, including eligibility criteria and how to calculate an “average day’s pay”.

To ensure clarity and that industry is prepared with updated policies and training, Destination BC has prepared a comprehensive FAQ which can be reviewed [here](#).

NEW RELIEF FUNDING FOR BUSINESSES ORDERED CLOSED

In case you missed it, the Province of BC has introduced the [COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant](#) aimed at assisting BC businesses that were mandated to temporarily shut down through public health orders because of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. The grant will provide funding to help affected businesses alleviate some financial pressures and expenses including rent, employee wages, insurance, maintenance, and utilities.

Businesses ordered fully closed include:

- Bars, Lounges, and Nightclubs
- Event venues that can no longer hold events

Businesses will be able to apply if they had to close under the December 22nd, 2021 Provincial Health Officer orders. Relief grants of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be provided to eligible businesses based on the number of employees, following a similar formula to the previous Circuit Breaker Relief Grant that supported businesses in the spring of 2021.

Applications for the grant will begin this month with the application process open until the end of February 2022. Business advisors will be able to support and direct applicants through a dedicated call centre that will be set up in early January by the Province and Small Business BC. Businesses will also be able to email questions [here](#).

Applications Open for Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program
Applications are now open for the Federal Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program.

The following is a list and links to the programs available for application:

- [Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program](#)
- [Canada Recovery Hiring Program](#)
- [Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program](#)

CRA has also included detailed information on the various programs and can be found [here](#)