



### 2023 OKSIR

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**Dr. Susanna Acheampong**  
BC Ministry of Agriculture

**Taras Pojasok**  
Agriculture and  
Agri-food Canada

### Agriculture Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project Kicks Off.

Kellie Garcia, Project Director for the new Agriculture Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project, presented on overview of the new initiative for the OKSIR Board. Ms. Garcia will coordinate and oversee the two-year pilot project as it tackles important work on cross-commodity (apples, cherries, and grapes) topics such as: labour supply and housing, extension, local government communications, and climate change. In the short term, the project will provide a pathway for the stabilization plan to transition from a Ministry of Agriculture-led to an industry-led process. In the long-term, the project hopes to lead a well-coordinated, adequately resources, cross-sectoral approach to identify and address common priorities and challenges.

### OKSIR Preliminary Season Results: Program Meeting Operational Target Despite Incredibly Challenging Season.

Program Entomologist Evan Esch shared data from the very hot 2023 season—a year that accumulated more heat units than any of the previous ten years. The extra heat means that insects develop faster and lay more eggs per female than in cooler years, and a whole extra generation of codling moth was observed this year. Despite this, field staff were able to work closely with growers to keep damage to a minimum, and the program achieved its operational target of 90% of the serviced acres having less than 0.2% damage from codling moth at the time of harvest. Codling moth will be just one of many pests for our farmers that will be more difficult to manage in the face of changing climate, making environmentally friendly solutions like OKSIR increasingly important.

### OKSIR sets increase for 2024 value tax at 4%.

Between 2010 and 2021, the Board had kept a \$1.7M value tax revenue cap in place, falling behind inflation and relying on reserves to fund shortfalls. The sharp decline in apple acres since 2018 has hastened the use of reserves. Sales revenues have increased significantly since 2015 (\$900k in 2022), helping to narrow—but not close—the gap between tax revenues and expenses. With financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture, the OKSIR Program is investigating new potential financial models that would emphasize sales of product and reduce reliance on taxes and tax increases.

The next regular meeting of the OKSIR Board will be 10:30 a.m. on **Friday, Nov 24, 2023**, in the RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom, with option for online participation.

