



British  
Columbia  
Certified  
Organic



**Lana Popham MLA** @lanapopham · Aug 15  
Fed Agri Min Lawrence MacAulay & I met 2 discuss BC fires & financial needs for recovery strategy. I was able to tell our BC story. #bcpoli

## Wildfire Recovery

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are working under the AgriRecovery disaster framework to determine the type of assistance that may be required by British Columbia's agriculture sector to recover from the impact of wildfires. The types of costs under consideration include:

- Costs related to ensuring animal health and safety;
- Feed, shelter and transportation costs;
- Costs to re-establish perennial crop and pasture production damaged by fire.

A federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs is available to help farmers in managing disaster events, including wildfires.

For more information:  
[news.gov.bc.ca/  
releases/2017AGRI0048-001444](http://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017AGRI0048-001444)

## Welcome to New Agriculture Minister

BC Organic Sector Welcomes New Minister Of Agriculture  
Saanich MLA Lana Popham has been named Minister of Agriculture—welcome, Lana! An organic farmer herself, Lana Popham has served as Opposition critic for agriculture since being elected in 2009, and has been a staunch supporter of BC's flourishing organic sector.

Premier John Horgan has given Minister Popham a number of mandates, including revitalizing the Agriculture Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission, increasing support for new farmers, and expanding local food production and markets.

We offer congratulations to Minister Popham and look forward to continued positive collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

## New Faces at COABC

Juanita Miller joins the team at COABC as our new Administrative Assistant. With experience in nutrition and administration, Juanita is excited to work with BC's organic sector. She says, "My philosophy is to know your local farmer and how your food is grown."

Juanita can be reached by email at [assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca) and by phone at 250.260.4429

## National Organic Sector Report

The State of Organics: Federal-Provincial-Territorial Performance Report 2017 analyzes the existing organic policy frameworks among Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments—and highlights BC's leadership role.

Download the report here:  
[www.ota.com/canada-ota/what-cota-does/government-relations-regulatory-affairs](http://www.ota.com/canada-ota/what-cota-does/government-relations-regulatory-affairs).





# Events

## Canadian Organic Standards Amendment

Publication of amended standard delayed

The Committee on Organic Agriculture of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has voted on modifications to a number of clauses of the Canadian Organic Standards (COS). As the CGSB is working on a cost-recovery basis, there have been ongoing discussions about the funding of the amendment process of the COS, the amended standard will be published when this funding issue is resolved.

In light of the anticipated revisions, and until the publication of the 2017 amendments of the COS (CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 and CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015), the following clauses are not applicable as such and are subjected to an 'opportunity for improvement' for concerned operators

CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015  
Clause 7.5.5 b), c) and d)

CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015  
Table 4.2 – Anaerobic digestate, Sulphur elemental  
Table 4.3 – Biological organisms, Formulants  
Table 5.2 – Acids for water treatment, Amino acids – only related to the use of DL-methionine, DL-methionine – hydroxy analog and DL methionine – hydroxy analog calcium 15 (CAS #'s 59-51-8, 853-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9) in hog production  
Table 6.5 – Ascorbic acid (vitamin C)  
Permitted substances Lists for cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers, clause 7.1.3  
Table 8.2 – Diatomaceous Earth

To comment, contact: [info@organicfederation.ca](mailto:info@organicfederation.ca)

## Organic Week

When: September 16-24, 2017  
Where: Locations across Canada!

Organic Week—the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming, and products across the country—is almost here! Look for farmer profiles and more through our social media and stay tuned to [certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca) for up-to-date info about COABC events for producers.

More info: [organicweek.ca](http://organicweek.ca).

## 12th Annual Organic Okanagan Festival

When: Sept 24, 2017 | 11 am-4 pm  
Where: Summerhill Winery, 4870 Chute Lake Rd, Kelowna

On Sunday September 24, 2017 we will celebrate the 12th Annual Organic Okanagan Festival (OOF) at Summerhill Pyramid Organic Winery - Transition to an Organic Okanagan future!

More info: <https://www.okanagangreens.ca/2017-12th-annual-organic-okanagan-festival>

## Blackbird Organics + Food of the Sun

When: Sept 24, 2017 | 2-7:30 pm  
Where: Blackbird Organics, 382 VLA Rd, Cawston

Hay South Okanagan & Similkameen Farmers: Young Agrarians Farm events are coming your way! Come out for a farm tour, potluck, and pool party at Blackbird Organics and Food of the Sun!

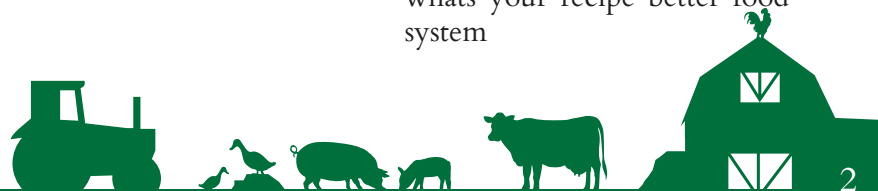
More info: [youngagrarians.org/blackbird-foodofthesun](http://youngagrarians.org/blackbird-foodofthesun)

## What's Your Recipe for a Better Food System?

When: September 27, 2017 | 7 pm  
Where: Revelstoke Recreations & Aquatic Centre

Join us for a community dialogue about how we can build a healthy, just, sustainable, and economically viable food system. This workshop will contribute to local and national Food Policy. Hosted by Community Connections.

More info: [foodsecurecanada.org/resources-news/events/revelstoke-whats-your-recipe-better-food-system](http://foodsecurecanada.org/resources-news/events/revelstoke-whats-your-recipe-better-food-system)







## Strategic Planning Session

Each year, the COABC board meets in November for a planning session. This year, the board and sector representatives will be focused on developing a five year strategic plan for the COABC and BC's organic sector. The session is sure to be ripe with vision and ideas for the future of organics in BC, and we look forward to sharing the results with COABC members.

In advance of the November meeting, the COABC will distribute a survey to members to gather feedback for planning session. We will be seeking your input about needs and direction for the next five years. Please keep an eye out for the survey and be sure to take the time to complete it—your participation is important and we want your voices to help shape the direction of BC's organic sector!

-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

## REMINDERS

### BCCO Logo

ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)



The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided

around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

### Complaints

#### Submission Form

Canada Organic Office complaint submission form can be found at [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php).

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php) "www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php".

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly mail to: [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)

### Planning a move?

If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving the BC Organic Grower and other materials.

### Newsletter Links

BC Agriculture Council  
COABC is a member under the  
Community Agriculture seat:

<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>

OFC info-bio:

[www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.bc.ca/>

### Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index)

