



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
GRAPEGROWERS'
ASSOCIATION**

November 14, 2012

David Sewell
Regional District North Okanagan
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC V1B 2K9

Re: Okanagan Similkameen Starling Research and Control Program

Dear Mr. Sewell:

Further to my previous e-mail to you regarding the invoicing for the RDNO's annual contribution to the Okanagan Similkameen Starling Control Program, here is a summary of the program for this year to October 31, 2012 .

The Okanagan Similkameen Starling Control Program is running along smoothly under the capable hands of 4 trappers – two in the South Okanagan-Similkameen, one in the Central Okanagan and Chris Blythe in the North Okanagan. From January 1 – October 31 a total of 47,000 birds have been captured with 17,800 catches in the RDNO. It is expected that trapping will continue in the North Okanagan at least until late November, depending upon the weather. Chris Blythe is currently servicing 12 sites throughout the region using a total of 25 traps. At the peak of the season he had up to 17 sites and a total of 30 traps. Program costs for the North Okanagan for this period totalled just over \$29,500.

To date in 2012 the program has received the following funding:

RDCO	\$25,000
RDOS	\$25,000
BC Fruit Growers' Association	\$ 5,000
Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers' Association	\$ 5,000
BC Grapegrowers' Association	\$18,000

We anticipate receiving \$5,000 from the Okanagan Tree Fruit Co-operative and of course the \$25,000 from the RDNO before year end.

The BCGA Board of Directors and the Program's Management Committee have been working with Dr. Jeff Curtis at UBC-Okanagan to continue the research undertaken by Jessi Neuhauser in her two year graduate student program. The research is aimed at determining the origins of starlings that make up the Okanagan-Similkameen populations and to better understand the movements & population dynamics locally to evaluate trapping effectiveness. It is anticipated that this research will receive funding through the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The continued research will be carried out again as a two-year graduate student program under the direction of Dr. Curtis using state

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of the art equipment at UBCO along with the techniques and sampling procedures that were fine-tuned by Jessi Neuhauser and found to work most successfully.

On behalf of the BCGA Board of Directors and the Program's Management Committee, I wish to thank you the Regional District North Okanagan for its ongoing support and financial contribution to the program.

If you have any questions or require any additional information please be in touch.

Yours truly,
BC Grapegrowers' Association
Per:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CBielert". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Connie Bielert
Administration Services, BC Grapegrowers' Association
Manager, Okanagan Similkameen Starling Control Program