



October 19, 2020

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Re: Composting in South Okanagan Regional District

The BC Wine Grape Council (BCWGC) and Sustainable Winegrowing BC (SWBC) support the effort of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to establish a facility for the composting of agricultural waste. The project will, if successful, reduce disposal at the landfill and make a valuable soil amendment resource.

Each year significant quantities of pomace and lees are produced as part of wine grape processing. In addition, vineyards need to dispose of culled vines, culled fruit, pruning and other vegetative waste, all of which can be incorporated into compost operations. Within the industry it is widely recognized that a composting operation in the Okanagan would serve the valuable function of turning what is now considered 'waste' into a very valuable resource, 'black gold', for re-use as a form of fertilizer on vineyards. This year the BCWGC is launching a sustainability certification program which at its foundation promotes practices that enhance soil health. Compost is a foundational element of such a strategy.

A quality compost program in our region will reduce landfill waste and provide our agricultural producers with a resource to enhance the soil of their farms. The BCWGC & SWBC are fully supportive of this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Gillis".

Karen Gillis
Chair | Sustainable Winegrowing BC
Vineyard Operations Manager | Andrew Peller Limited