

The Canadian Grapevine Certification Network Announces a New Board & Releases Amended Bylaws

Leadership and organizational changes took effect at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on April 28th, 2026, for the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN-RCCV). Nearly 50% of board representation has changed, along with updates to bylaws.

The CGCN-RCCV Board of Directors have elected the following officer positions:

- Chair - Kevin Watson, Grape Growers of Ontario (GGO)
- Vice-Chair - Mike Watson, British Columbia Wine Grape Council (BCWGC)
- Treasurer - Mélanie Gore, Conseil des vins du Québec (CVQ)
- Secretary – Katarina Vucic, Grape Growers' Association of Nova Scotia (GGANS)

Kevin Watson has been involved in Ontario's grape and wine industry since 1978 and currently farms approximately 100 acres of certified sustainable vineyards, including some of Ontario's earliest plantings of Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Franc and Pinots Gris vines. He is also the Chair of the GGO, sat on the Growers' Committee until 2022, and was named Grape King in 2007. His leadership extends to the Ontario Wine Appellation Authority (VQA) where he sits on the Board of Directors and serves on the GGO's Advisory Committee. In addition to the vineyard, Kevin, his wife Cathy and their two children operate a winemaking and barrel business, Watson's Barrels & Winemaking Supplies.

Mike Watson is the Senior Viticulturist of Arterra Wines Canada, located in British Columbia. He is one of the individuals that is responsible for bringing CGCN-RCCV to life over 9 years ago and previously Chaired the BCWGC Board of Directors. Mike focused on sustainable plant systems and food safety throughout his Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia (2000) and joined Arterra Wines in 2001. Over the past 20 years Mike has been responsible for the development of both internal vineyards for Arterra as well as consulting and designing vineyard developments for growers.

Mélanie Gore is the Executive Director of the CVQ and previously held the position of Vice-Chair of CGCN-RCCV since 2022, but has been a director since 2020. Her background is in business intelligence and marketing, but she discovered her passion for the wine industry through a marketing role with Coteau Rougemont vineyard.

Katarina Vucic is the Viticulture Specialist at Perennia Food and Agriculture Corporation in Nova Scotia. She has been working in the grape and wine industry for nearly 20 years, employed in various roles in British Columbia, Canada, and France. She received her master's degree in business and science with a focus in Vineyard and Winery Management from the University of Bordeaux Science Agro (2020).

Hans Buchler sat at the head of the CGCN-RCCV table, Chairing the board since the inception of the organization in 2017, and leading clean plant committees even prior to this. Although he will maintain his position as a BCWGC representative, the new board sincerely thanks Hans for his leadership, dedication, mentorship and steady guidance over the years. Hans' passion for research and development has been a driving force behind CGCN-RCCV's innovation initiatives and vision for creating a domestic clean plant network.

Other core industry leaders have stepped down from the board of directors, including Louis Thomas (CVQ) and Matthias Oppenlaender (GGO), serving 8 and 9 years, respectively. The new board thanks Louis and Matthias for their years of dedicated service to building the foundation of a new not-for-profit start-up and tirelessly advocating for government and industry investment into clean vines, and research and development to advance the Canadian grape and wine sector.

CGCN-RCCV welcomes new directors Andrew Wilson (GGO) and Marc Théberge (CVQ) and is grateful for Peter Jackson's (GGANS) continued engagement since joining the board in 2025.

Additionally, CGCN-RCCV's bylaws have been amended to outline maximum consecutive term limits, and criteria for director eligibility. For more information on bylaw changes, please [contact CGCN-RCCV](#).

We look forward to continuing to serve Canada's grape and wine industry under fresh leadership, and contributing to a more resilient, competitive and sustainable future for Canadian agriculture.

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