

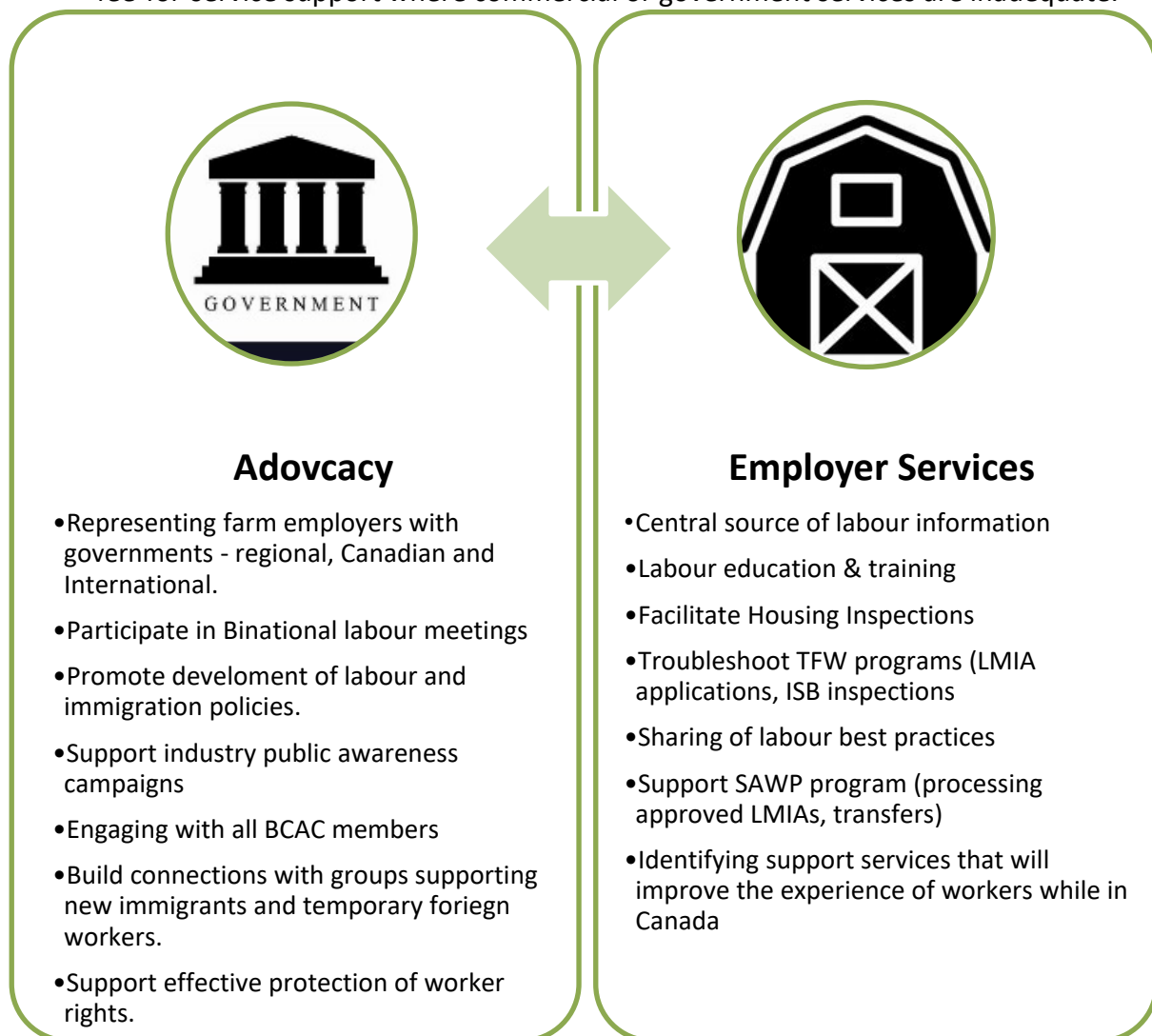
## What WALI Does

As a wholly owned subsidiary company of the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC). The Western Agriculture Initiative (WALI) supports BCAC as the lead industry advocate on farm labour priorities in British Columbia and the central labour resource organization for B.C. farmers and ranchers.

WALI wants to grow a strong, sustainable, and competitive agriculture sector by helping farmers find and keep a productive workforce.

This will happen with WALI:

1. Advocating on behalf of farmers to government for labour policies and programs that support a safe, sustainable, and effective workforce, and
2. Supporting farm employers navigate labour regulations & programs and providing fee-for-service support where commercial or government services are inadequate.



WALI is currently does not provide advice or services regulated by the Canadian Immigration Act or the B.C. Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act.

Current examples of what WALI is doing:

**Advocacy**

- Participating in the development of a National Workforce Strategy for Agriculture and Food and Beverage Manufacturing. Solving the farm labour shortage will making taking creative and strategic investments by farmers and food processors.
- Participating with CFA, FVGA, and other provincial farm labour organizations to ensure that changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker programs do not make this source of workers unavailable to farmers.
- Working with the B.C. Ministry of Health to ensure that the TFW worker housing is safe for workers, that standards are respected by all employers and workers, and that the public understands that housing is regulated.
- Working with SAWP partner counties and Canada to increase the housing deduction for both SAWP and AgStream employers.
- Working with ESDC to ensure the integrity of housing inspections.
- Working with Integrity Services Branch to improve processing times for integrity inspections and to clarify requirements.
- Meeting with foreign governments wanting to increase the number of farm workers in B.C.

**Service**

- Implementing Online Employer Portal to improve access to information relating to housing inspections and SAWP LMIA processing.
- Hosting information sessions with Employers and AgStream recruiters.
- Conducting SAWP processing information sessions to assist employers preparing their LMIA applications.
- Developing “best practices” information brochures to help employers attract and retain workers.
- Developing improved training and monitoring for housing inspections.
- Collaborating with the SAWP source countries to improve the fit of new workers (ensure that they have the abilities required in the LMIA) and improve processing times.
- Providing information for TFW workers through HubConnect App.
- Partnering with AgSafe to ensure that OH&S programs work for TFWs.
- Assessing organizations that support new Canadians and TFWs to identify strategic partners that align with WALI’s values.