

**RESOLUTIONS AS ADOPTED AT**  
**The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**of the**  
**CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL**

**The Westin Ottawa – Ottawa, Ontario**  
**March 12 – 15, 2013**

**2013-01**     **Importation of Pollination Bees**     **WITHDRAWN**

PEI Wild Blueberry Producers Association  
**Allocation:**     *Trade and Industry Standards Committee*

**2013-02**     **Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs) and Biosecurity**     **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association  
**Allocation:**     *Trade and Industry Standards Committee*

WHEREAS the use of Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs) is being increasingly mandated by Canadian retailers as the required method for farmers to package and ship product to them; and

WHEREAS despite the assurances issued by companies involved in the manufacture and distribution of RPCs, many Canadian farmers have identified visible cleanliness issues with the RPCs delivered to their farms; and

WHEREAS these visible observations raise suspicions and fears about the existence of organisms that could cause food safety and particularly plant pathology problems; and

WHEREAS there does not appear to have been any controlled scientific studies carried out under the conditions of RPC use in Canada that could allay these fears,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC work with the CFIA to ensure that a full and comprehensive scientific study is carried out to examine the possible areas of biosecurity concern including plant pathogenicity to determine if there are any possible risks to human health or to the production base, and to make recommendations on Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs) management, handling and use practices to eliminate these risks.

**2013-03**     **Authorization of Requested Test Markets**     **WITHDRAWN**

New Brunswick Potato Shippers' Association  
**Allocation:**     *Potato Committee*

**2013-04**     **Opposition to the Repeal of Standard Containers Regulations**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Prince Edward Island Potato Board  
**Allocation:**     *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is making changes to the regulatory framework that governs potato movement and inspection outlined in the 2012 Federal Budget. CFIA plans to repeal standard container regulations under the *Fresh Fruit*

*and Vegetable Regulations (FF&VR) of the Canada Agricultural Products Act under the guise of removing barriers to trade and taking advantage of new packaging formats; and*

WHEREAS imports and interprovincial trade already regularly occur without damaging the stability of supply and price in the marketplace that could be in jeopardy with deregulation of container sizes; and

WHEREAS standard containers allow for predictable, inventory of standardized packaging material with minimal waste; and

WHEREAS a 7lb test market was conducted in 2006-07 and was not deemed successful as it did not make an efficient use of shelf space, was confusing to consumers as it was difficult to make price comparisons between pack sizes; and

WHEREAS the potato industry was not consulted on the Repeal of Standard Containers; and

WHEREAS the potato industry is already able to take advantage of new packing formats and technologies under the FF&VR Test Market provision [section 2.3],

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC continue to work with the Canadian potato industry to continue to be on record to oppose the Repeal of Standard Container Regulations in order to maintain the approved standard containers for potatoes (i.e.: 3lb or less, 5lb, 10lb, 15lb, 20lb, 50lb, 75lb, and 100lb).

2013-05

***Opposition to Changes to  
the Seed Potato Quality Management Program***

**CARRIED**

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

**Allocation:** *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS at present, the Seed Potato Quality Management Program (SPQMP) offers seed potato growers a voluntary alternative for shipping-point based seed potato inspection to that traditionally done by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). This can apply to domestic seed shipments or seed destined for the United States that are not intended for re-certification; and

WHEREAS the CFIA is seeking to amend these regulations to make this a mandatory program for all domestic movement and for all seed potatoes destined for the United States; and

WHEREAS the potato industry was not consulted about this regulatory change; and

WHEREAS the primary concern is that amending these regulations without acceptance or harmonization with the 17 State Seed Certification Agencies in the United States will put at risk our ability to export seed to the US for re-certification; and

WHEREAS implementation for the 2013 crop is also seen to be unrealistic particularly as it provides limited time for grower training and adjustment to the program and the stated implementation date of April 1, 2014 occurs right in the middle of shipping season,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Potato Council insist that the CFIA delay its implementation for seed destined for the US for recertification purposes until it has

gained acceptance by all 17 State Seed Certification Agencies in the United States for this change, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CFIA delay implementation of the mandatory participation for domestic movement until there is time for adequate training and adjustment of growers new to the program and for the implementation date to be between shipping seasons (after the 2014 growing season).

**2013-06**     ***Opposition to Cost Recovery Fees  
for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) Testing***

**CARRIED**

Prince Edward Island Potato Board  
**Allocation:**     *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been performing testing for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) for seed destined for the United States due to import restrictions imposed by the USDA; and

WHEREAS the CFIA has stated that they plan to introduce cost recovery fees for PCN testing in the order of \$49.87 per acre for the first year and \$99.75 for subsequent years; and

WHEREAS each acre of potatoes that yields seed potatoes destined for movement to the United States must be tested for PCN, despite having no positive tests results from over 200,000 conducted tests since implementation of the testing protocol; and

WHEREAS this requirement is political in nature, as neither country requires testing when seed moves across provincial or state borders and where the rate of sampling for surveillance purposes is abnormally high compared to testing used in other countries where this nematode is a pest (e.g.: Scotland); and

WHEREAS the proposed cost will put Canadian seed producers at the competitive disadvantage for potential sales to US buyers, and result in excessive cost to be borne by western seed producers sending seed to Hawaii for a grow-out post-harvest test,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Potato Council request the CFIA to delay the implementation of planned cost recovery for PCN testing until it can be negotiated with the United States to make surveillance testing for PCN conducted on a more economical and risk-based approach and until the federal government enter talks with the Canadian industry to develop a compensation program for cash crop growers who find a quarantine-level pest on their farm.

**2013-07**     ***Support of a National Marketing Task Group***

**CARRIED**

Prince Edward Island Potato Board  
**Allocation:**     *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS potato consumption has steeply declined in Canada by -48% since 1997, with one of the sharpest drops occurring in 2010. (Source: Food Statistics, Statistics Canada & Vegetables and Melons Outlook, USDA); and

WHEREAS the usage of fresh potatoes is changing in Canada, and an evaluation of the product offerings and packing of fresh potatoes is imperative to understand consumer needs; and

WHEREAS the industry must understand these changes in order to be competitive and relevant to today's consumer; and

WHEREAS potatoes have suffered negative nutritional press and have come under pressure from issues like the Atkins diets and potatoes not listed on Canada's Food Guide; and

WHEREAS the potato industry is unable to make positive health claims on the nutrition of potatoes, as laid out by Health Canada; and

WHEREAS the industry has had no centralized marketing voice; the industry has formalized a national task group dedicated to carrying out these marketing-related functions on behalf of the industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Potato Council continues to support the National Marketing Task Group, dedicated to working to improve perceptions of potatoes and stop the decline of potato consumption.

**2013-08**     **Deduction for housing temporary foreign workers**     **CARRIED**

Fondation des Entreprises en Recrutement de Main-d'œuvre agricole Étrangère (FERME)  
**Allocation:**     *Human Resources Committee*

WHEREAS the *Commission des normes du travail du Québec* has increased the maximum weekly housing deduction for temporary foreign workers working in Québec and who are not part of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program from \$20 to \$45; and

WHEREAS the \$45 limit was established further to an exhaustive survey by the Québec government on the actual costs assumed by agricultural employers; and

WHEREAS since November 28, 2012, Service Canada has required all Québec businesses to limit the housing deduction to \$30 per week; and

WHEREAS it has been reiterated many times that the provincial employment standards boards are responsible for interpreting and applying the standards and employment conditions governing salaried workers, in the current situation in which different amounts are deducted from workers for the same housing depending on their arrival date,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) supports the initiatives by FERME and by Québec's farmers to petition Service Canada not to set a limit on the deductions taken from farm worker's salaries and to ensure the applicable provincial legislation is enforced.

**2013-09**     **CHC's Role in National Promotion and Research Agencies**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture  
**Allocation:**     *Apple and Fruit Committee*

WHEREAS there is currently a project, spearheaded by the British Columbia Raspberry Industry Development Council (BC RIDC), to create a national raspberry promotion and research agency; and

WHEREAS there is currently a project, spearheaded by the *Association des producteurs de fraises et framboises du Québec* (APFFQ), to create a national strawberry promotion and research agency; and

WHEREAS this project is key to the development of strawberry production in Canada and in Québec; and

WHEREAS the Canadian consultation on the strawberry project is almost completed, and that the APFFQ is now at the stage of formal consultations with all associations involved, in the aim of tabling the final proposal to the Farm Products Council of Canada by the end of September; and

WHEREAS in this regard, the CHC's support for this project is extremely important, even necessary, to ensure a certain coordination of initiatives at the national level; and

WHEREAS the CHC maintains close ties to the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA), and this association's members are major players in the importing of fruits and vegetables in Canada; and

WHEREAS the APFFQ has been a member of the CHC for several years; and

WHEREAS the CHC is responsible for defending the interests of all its members,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC support the proposal to create a national strawberry promotion and research agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC make all necessary representations to the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and other relevant stakeholders to obtain support from all parties for this proposal and others to come.

**2013-10 *Development of a New Insurance-based Product to Mitigate the Cost of Product Recalls***

**CARRIED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

**Allocation:** *Finance and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS fresh fruits and vegetables are increasingly being sold in a "ready to eat" format; and

WHEREAS no treatment method, such as pasteurization, exists for fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS consumers, retailers, and government regulatory agencies are becoming more demanding regarding the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS agricultural producers are exposed to the risk of the high costs of a recall; and

WHEREAS private insurance is not generally available and, where available, is costly and is associated with high deductibles,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC petition Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to implement a recall insurance program applicable to all agricultural products.

**2013-11**     **Reverse Budget Cuts to AgriStability and AgrilInvest**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

**Allocation:**     *Finance and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS     the federal and provincial governments have reduced the coverage level in AgriStability from 85% to 70% of program reference margins and reduced the matching contribution in AgrilInvest from 1.5% to 1.0% of Allowable Net Sales (ANS),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the CHC object to the federal and provincial governments' decision to cut the funding of agricultural risk management programs.

**2013-12**     **Competitively Priced Crop Protection Products**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

**Allocation:**     *Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee*

WHEREAS     many crop protection products sold in Canada are lower-priced in the United States; and

WHEREAS     this is a trade inequity between crop protection products imported into Canada versus those imported into the US,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the Government of Canada ensure that crop protection product pricing in Canada is competitive with the United States.

**2013-13**     **Fill Vacant Research Positions**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

**Allocation:**     *Research and Technology Committee*

WHEREAS     recent Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Science and Technology Branch cutbacks have resulted in reductions of personnel in critical areas of research,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the CHC request that AAFC Science and Technology Branch urgently fill the positions of Plant Pathologist, Plant Breeders and Ground Cover Specialist at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre.

**2013-14**     **Immigration of Farm Workers to Support Farm Succession**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

**Allocation:**     *Human Resources Committee*

WHEREAS     current immigrants to Canada must be rated and accepted based on the following priorities:

1.     Economic (investment, high-skilled),
2.     Humanitarian (Refugee),
3.     Family (reunification); and

WHEREAS     in past years, waves of immigrants have been a source of workers (e.g. Dutch, Portuguese, East Indian, etc.) to perform work essential to Canadian farm

operations, and these workers contributed to Canadian agriculture and the Canadian economy; and

WHEREAS in past years, many of these workers immigrated to Canada, often to take a stake and play a critical role in farm succession by becoming the new owner-operators; and

WHEREAS current demographics in Canada show a high level of urbanization and this results in reduced interest in on-farm, rural, physically-demanding, seasonal jobs and further results in a shortage of Canadians for farm jobs; and

WHEREAS currently many children of farm families follow the Canadian urbanization demographic by becoming highly educated and seeking jobs in urban areas, resulting in a farm succession problem; and

WHEREAS Permanent Residency is possible at present, but not straightforward under the current immigration rules; and

WHEREAS farm succession will be an increasing problem if foreign farm workers are not allowed to immigrate and take a stake in the Canadian farm sector,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian government expand the economic immigration goals to include farm workers in the Low Skill Worker Program who are sponsored by farm operators.

2013-15

**National Promotion and Research Agency for Horticulture**

**DEFEATED**

Horticulture Nova Scotia

**Allocation:** *Finance and Marketing Committee*