

RESOLUTIONS AS ADOPTED AT
the 92nd Annual General Meeting
of the
CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Delta Grand Okanagan – Kelowna, BC
March 4 – 6, 2014

2014-01 **National Clean Plant Program** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS it is critical for growers of perennial fruit and vegetable crops to start their plantings with clean, disease free planting stock that is true to type; and

WHEREAS the United States has instituted a National Clean Plant Network (NCPN), operating under the auspices of three agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), to provide their nurseries with clean planting stock; and

WHEREAS Canadian nursery growers could be subject to rules developed by the US NCPN that could limit their ability to ship plants to the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC demand that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency enact a program similar to the US National Clean Plant Network and/or participate in (or join) the existing US NCPN.

2014-02 **Lack of Consultation with the Potato Industry Prior to Specific CFIA Program Cuts Made in the 2012 Federal Budget** **CARRIED**

PEI Potato Board

Allocation: *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) identified a number of substantial changes to the regulatory framework that governs potato movement and inspection that were contained in the 2012 Federal Budget, including:

- i. the repeal of regulations related to container standards under the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* of the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*.
- ii. changing the Seed Potato Tuber Quality Management Program (SPTQMP) from a voluntary alternative for shipping-point based seed potato inspection to a mandatory one for both domestic and US sales.
- iii. the introduction of cost recovery fees for PCN testing at a rate of \$49.87 per acre in 2014 and \$99.75 for subsequent years; and

WHEREAS these changes all had significant trade implications for our potato industry; and

WHEREAS these changes also significantly affect the ability of the Canadian potato industry to be cost competitive; and

WHEREAS the potato industry was not consulted on any of these changes prior to the budget announcement or given any indication that these changes were under consideration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC continue to work with the Canadian potato industry and the federal government to maintain the approved standard containers (3 lb or less, 5 lb, 10 lb, 15 lb, 20 lb, 50 lb, 75 lb, and 100 lb) in Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC work with the federal government to ensure that future specific program changes are not included in omnibus budget packages without prior consultation with industry, and that in the future AAFC and the CFIA work on a more proactive and consultative basis with the Canadian Horticultural Council on such issues.

2014-03 ***Timing of Approval and Signing of Agreements under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation and AgriMarketing Growing Forward 2 Programs*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

PEI Potato Board

Allocation: *Finance and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Horticultural Council has applied for projects under the Agri-AgriInnovation (Agri-science Cluster) and the AgriMarketing Programs; and

WHEREAS these cost shared programs require significant cash and in-kind input from industry; and

WHEREAS agriculture is a seasonal industry and delays can lead to the loss of an entire year of work and to a lack of continuity in programs and staffing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council continue to lobby the federal government for more timely approval and finalization of funding agreements and the disbursement of funds.

2014-04 ***Cooperation Required to Assist Growers in Dealing with Wireworm Pressure*** **CARRIED**

PEI Potato Board

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

WHEREAS wireworm is spreading and becoming a costly pest in Prince Edward Island and Alberta as well as other limited locations, with an annual estimated cost/losses of over \$7 million for potato and vegetable crops in PEI alone; and

WHEREAS the lone chemical control option for potato growers is Thimet®, which is due to be deregistered in Canada in 2015; and

WHEREAS an extensive national research program to look for alternative methods of control was initiated under Growing Forward 1 and will be continued under Growing Forward 2; and

WHEREAS a new chemical control option, Capture® (bifenthrin), has not yet received full registration status in Canada and thus growers have not had the opportunity to use Capture® to determine its effectiveness against the wireworm species of economic concern (note: in Canada at least nine species of the genus *Agriotes* are known to cause economic damage in several crops such as oats, wheat, barley, clover, corn, carrots, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes, parsnips etc. [Campbell et al. 1984]; the major species in PEI are *Agriotes sputator*; *Agriotes obscurus*; and *Agriotes lineatus*),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- the registration for Thimet® be extended until 2017; and
- the federal government provide further research support to identify chemical and cultural practice options that may provide solutions to this serious problem.

2014-05 ***Licensing and Registration by the CFIA***
pursuant to the new Safe Food for Canadians Act **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

Allocation: *Food Safety Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will require all international and interprovincial fruit and vegetable merchants to be licensed under the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*; and

WHEREAS Canadian fruit and vegetable producers and distributors have implemented an effective food safety program managed by the industry (CanadaGAP and CanAgPlus); and

WHEREAS this program is deemed to be equivalent to the rigorous and internationally recognized Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) standards; and

WHEREAS the implementation of a new food safety program by the CFIA would create confusion and additional costs for Canadian taxpayers and for producers, who have already covered a portion of the program development costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council work to ensure that the CFIA will require all license holders to enroll in a food safety program equivalent to those managed by CanAgPlus.

2014-06 ***Limited Stay for Temporary Foreign Workers*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

FERME

Allocation: *Human Resources Committee*

WHEREAS temporary foreign workers are essential to the smooth operation and profitability of Canadian agricultural businesses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has placed a cumulative 48-month limit on the time a worker is allowed to work in Canada under the agriculture stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby Citizenship and Immigration Canada to have agricultural workers (agriculture stream of the TFWP) exempted from the 48-month limit.

2014-07 ***AgrilInnovation Program's Agri-Science Project*** **CARRIED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

Allocation: *Research and Technology Committee*

WHEREAS the AgrilInnovation Program stems from industry demand and the Agri-Science Project component aims to fund less comprehensive projects up until March 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS applications were submitted under the Agri-Science Project component in good faith and in compliance with the submission dates and criteria in effect at the time the application was submitted; and

WHEREAS AAFC changed the project funding standards after the submission deadline, namely with respect to the sharing of industry contributions and the allocation of resources between vote 1 and 10; and

WHEREAS the criteria in effect favour private companies with access to tax credits to the detriment of associations; and

WHEREAS AAFC undertakes to respond to applications within 100 days; and

WHEREAS AAFC rejected all small fruit, tree fruit, vegetable and greenhouse production projects submitted under the CHC's Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council request that AAFC allocate specific funding for small fruit, tree fruit, vegetable and greenhouse production projects in Canada as part of the Agri-Science Project component of the AgrilInnovation Program.

2014-08 ***Accessible Weather Data for all Canadian Horticultural Producers*** **CARRIED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

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

WHEREAS the availability of credible and timely weather data is essential to the planning for and management of horticultural crops in Canada; and

WHEREAS weather data is an essential tool for horticultural producers to manage crop health, physiological disorders, and phenological development; and

WHEREAS hourly weather data is required for pest forecasting models in order to limit phytosanitary interventions; and

WHEREAS all Canadian horticultural producers must have access to credible and timely weather data,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for adequate funding of a national weather data collection and analysis network.

2014-09 **Phytosanitary Certificate Requirements for Leek Moth** **CARRIED**

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

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

WHEREAS Canadian producers exporting leeks and green onions to the United States are required to secure a phytosanitary certificate signed by a CFIA inspector in order to meet US import requirements "shipments must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) containing an additional declaration (AD) that the shipment is free from *Acrolepiopsis assectella*"; and

WHEREAS the CFIA has not provided on-site inspections since 2012; and

WHEREAS Canadian producers exporting leeks and green onions to the United States must travel to the nearest inspection office, at a distance of up to 100 km in most cases; and

WHEREAS these producers must deliver the majority of their orders within 24 hours to meet customer demands it is an undue burden to travel such distances to secure the required certificates for each shipment; and

WHEREAS these requirements, resulting from the loss of on-site inspections, will have a significant negative impact on the export of green onions and leeks and the competitiveness of small business; and

WHEREAS the CFIA plans to implement an online electronic signature system in 2015, which will eliminate the need to travel to obtain phytosanitary approvals,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC demand the CFIA implement the online electronic signature system by summer 2014.

2014-10 **Updating the ReTain label**
to maximize returns for Canadian Apple Growers **CARRIED**

Ontario Apple Growers

Allocation: *Apple and Fruit Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian apple industry has planted many hectares of new apple varieties such as Gala, Honeycrisp and Ambrosia in order to meet consumer demand; and

WHEREAS apple varieties such as Gala, Honeycrisp and Ambrosia benefit from the use of the plant growth regulator, ReTain, due to its ability to protect against accelerated fruit drop, water core and stem bowl cracking; and

WHEREAS the label application rate of ReTain is too high for use on sensitive apple varieties such as Gala, Honeycrisp and Ambrosia, and although the label rate for use in Canada is identical to that of the United States, the Days to Harvest Interval in Canada is four times longer than in the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council ask both Valent Canada, the registrant of ReTain, and the (Health Canada) Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to include a range of use rates on the Canadian label to reflect the wide range of sensitivity to ReTain among apple varieties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council request that Valent Canada seek to the (Health Canada) Pest Management Regulatory Agency amend the current Days to Harvest Interval in Canada (28 days) to match that of the United States (seven days).

LR 2014-11 Single Licensing for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Sector **CARRIED**

CHC Board of Directors

Allocated to: Trade and Industry Standards Committee

WHEREAS the CFIA and AAFC have recently undertaken consultations regarding potential enhancements to the CFIA Licencing and Arbitration Regulations as part of the CFIA Modernization Initiative; and

WHEREAS the rules for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC), including the requirements for the posting of financial security, are fully equivalent to those established by the USDA; and

WHEREAS the USDA licencing system allows primary producers in North America to access arbitration and complaint services on a pay as you go basis, and

WHEREAS any change to the DRC's current financial security model which expands its scope would impact primary producers and small businesses, thereby placing Canadian producers at a further competitive disadvantage, and

WHEREAS any "enhancements" to the current DRC delivery model that result in increased costs will be passed back directly to Canadian producers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council request the CFIA and AAFC to:

- replace the *Licencing and Arbitration Regulations* for fresh fruit and vegetable dealers with an industry-led and government-mandated membership and arbitration model to be delivered by a single entity;
- name the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC), including its rules and regulations, as the single entity;
- not require primary producers who only market products that they have grown themselves to be members of the DRC, and ensure that these primary producers have full access to the DRC system on a pay as you go basis, and
- Not increase the scope, requirements or criterion for posting financial security by applicants to or members of the DRC as the current policies and rules of the DRC provide a level of security for specific instances without creating a barrier to entry or needless burden on small and medium size businesses.

LR 2014-12 ***Foreign Worker Mobility***

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

Allocated to: *Human Resources Committee*

WHEREAS foreign workers can only work for one employer unless the transfer has been previously approved by Service Canada; and

WHEREAS the shortage of local workers makes situation increasingly difficult for growers; and

WHEREAS in certain period of time, farms have unmet and urgent needs of labour while others nearby cannot ensure the minimum hours required for SAWP workers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC makes representations to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Employment and Social Development Canada, and the supply countries so that employers who have an approved LMO can exchange SAWP workers for a short period of time in order to meet their manpower shortage.

LR 2014-13 ***Definition of "Greenhouse"***

CARRIED

CHC Greenhouse WG

Allocated to: *Greenhouse Committee*

WHEREAS the term "greenhouse" is not clearly defined in Canada and is not regulated,

WHEREAS certain vegetables are sometimes sold under the "greenhouse vegetable" label, while they are not really produced in a greenhouse; and

WHEREAS CHC previously adopted resolution number 2011-17, that included a definition of "Greenhouse";

WHEREAS the Greenhouse Committee has reviewed and deliberated upon said definition and has determined that certain refinements are required to clarify said definition;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC replace the definition of "Greenhouse" as it was previously approved by resolution number 2011-17 and replace the definition with the following:

"A Vegetable Greenhouse or Hothouse" means a fully enclosed permanent aluminum or steel structure clad either in glass or impermeable plastic which must:

- (a) *Use automated irrigation and climate control systems, including heating and ventilation capabilities; and*
- (b) *Utilize hydroponic methods"*

"Vegetable Greenhouse/Hothouse Production Standards" also include;

- i) *Minimizing pesticide use by utilizing no herbicides and following production practices such as Integrated Pest Management; and*
- ii) *Complying with the standards of a globally accepted Food Safety program.*

A certified organic greenhouse/hothouse vegetable facility must meet the greenhouse definition, with the exception of (b), as, according to Canadian organic standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310-2006), hydroponics are not allowed and “soil” must be used as the growth medium.

LR 2014-14 ***Deep Geothermal Energy***

WITHDRAWN

BC Greenhouse Growers Association
Allocated to: Greenhouse Committee