

# RESOLUTIONS AS ADOPTED

## At the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Westin Ottawa – Ottawa, Ontario  
March 8-10, 2016

**2016-01**     **CHC Annual Appointments**     **CARRIED**

Peak of the Market

**Allocation:**    *Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee*

WHEREAS    the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC), through the Annual General Meeting process, reviews and confirms CHC appointments to various internal and external committees and Boards on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS    there are members within the CHC membership who produce and market organic production; and

WHEREAS    it is critical that the CHC be strategically positioned and well represented to influence any standards and regulations which impact the production and marketing of Canadian-grown horticulture crops,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED    that the CHC include the appointment of a representative of organic horticulture production to the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on Organic Agriculture among its annual appointments and that the representative provide reports through the Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee.

**2016-02**     **Employment Insurance**     **CARRIED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:**    *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS    the 2013 Employment Insurance reform has had negative consequences for Canadian agricultural workers whose employment does not extend throughout the 12 months of a year; and

WHEREAS    the reform encourages these workers to leave the agricultural sector, resulting in a more acute labour shortage problem; and

WHEREAS    this exodus of workers leads to a loss of important skills and expertise for the agricultural sector,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED    that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to recognize the seasonal nature of certain economic sectors such as agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED        that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to improve Canadian agricultural seasonal workers' access to

employment insurance by cancelling the changes made in 2012 which limit the pool of local seasonal workers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council endeavor to gain the support of sectors of the Canadian economy that are experiencing the same issues, such as forestry and fishing, in support of these requests.

**2016-03** ***The Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework - AgriStability*** **CARRIED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:** *Finance and Business Management Committee*

WHEREAS the risks faced by Canadian agricultural businesses are constantly evolving; and

WHEREAS foreign competition, while providing opportunities for growth, also exposes them to further risks and additional costs; and

WHEREAS these businesses must be able to rely on economic stability and access to effective risk management programs in order to continue to grow; and

WHEREAS significant cuts were made to federal agricultural funding during the transition between the Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 agricultural policy frameworks; and

WHEREAS considering the current and upcoming discussions on the next Canadian agricultural policy framework,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to make it a priority to change the level of coverage offered through the AgriStability program returning it back to that of the program preceding Growing Forward 2, by:

1. Eliminating the measures limiting the reference margins within the AgriStability program, and exploring alternative approaches to limit payments in cases of producers who earn a profit, while also ensuring allowable expenses are covered for producers with negative margins;
2. Re-establishing the previous limit that triggers the AgriStability program, so that payments are made when margins for the program year fall below 85% of the producer's historical reference margins.

**2016-04** ***The Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework - AgrilInvest*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:** *Finance and Business Management Committee*

WHEREAS the risks faced by Canadian agricultural businesses are constantly evolving; and

WHEREAS foreign competition, while providing opportunities for growth, also exposes them to further risks and additional costs; and

WHEREAS these businesses must be able to rely on economic stability and access to effective risk management programs in order to continue to grow; and

WHEREAS significant cuts were made to federal agricultural funding during the transition between the Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 agricultural policy frameworks; and

WHEREAS considering the current and upcoming discussions on the next Canadian agricultural policy framework,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to:

1. Increase the AgriInvest basic maximum contribution rate for matching contributions to 4.5% of allowable net sales on eligible commodities and eliminate the caps on government payments; and
2. Provide more flexibility for agricultural producers with regard to withdrawing funds accumulated through the AgriInvest program for funds earmarked for a series of preapproved and proactive investment programs that mitigate financial and production risks, and
3. To allow for the producers to first withdraw their own contributions before withdrawing government funds.

**2016-05**     **The Canadian Agricultural Policy Framework - AgriRecovery**     **CARRIED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:**     *Finance and Business Management Committee*

WHEREAS the risks faced by Canadian agricultural businesses are constantly evolving; and

WHEREAS foreign competition, while providing opportunities for growth, also exposes them to further risks and additional costs; and

WHEREAS these businesses must be able to rely on economic stability and access to effective risk management programs in order to continue to grow; and

WHEREAS significant cuts were made to federal agricultural funding during the transition between the Growing Forward and Growing Forward 2 agricultural policy frameworks; and

WHEREAS considering the current and upcoming discussions on the next Canadian agricultural policy framework,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to clearly define the measures available through the AgriRecovery program, such as measures aimed at providing aid in response to natural disasters, and differentiate them from other risk management programs of businesses in order to prevent payments made further to a disaster from being diminished/recovered from another program.

2016-06

**Registration of Pest Control Products**

**CARRIED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

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

WHEREAS agricultural producers need to be able to protect their fields from natural enemies of crops (weeds, insects and diseases) and to ensure that their businesses remain viable, as well as protect the environment and public health; and

WHEREAS several provinces, including Québec and Ontario, restrict the use of certain registered pest control products deemed to present an increased risk to health and the environment; and

WHEREAS registration of lower risk products is an alternative to the use of these pesticides targeted by provincial regulations; and

WHEREAS the registration process timeline is too long; and

WHEREAS it is important to maintain a steady balance between measures aimed at reducing the use of pest control products and the need to preserve:

- Food security – food safety, quality, availability and the cost of food;
- The health of agricultural producers and consumers;
- The environment;
- The economic stability of the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS sound management and control of pests suggests a rotation between chemical groups so as to limit the phenomenon of resistance against crop pests; implying increased access to and use of a wider range of registered products,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to increase the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's and the Pest Management Centre's human, financial and material resources in order to meet the evolving contextual needs of industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to accelerate the registration process for alternative pest control products.

2016-07

**Temporary Foreign Worker Program: Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program**

**TABLED TO LABOUR COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:** *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS the availability of an adequate labour force is necessary to sustain and develop Canadian horticultural businesses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada offers agricultural employers programs allowing them to hire temporary foreign workers (TFWs) in order to fill vacant positions; and

WHEREAS TFWs must wait months before being able to transfer between agricultural employers within a season; and

WHEREAS TFW programs must be suited as best as possible to the current reality of Canadian agricultural businesses; and

WHEREAS processing delays that can take up to 12 weeks, oblige producers to submit TFW requests six months in advance,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to:

- Review the concept of related services within the SAWP employment contract to allow Canadian employers to benefit from daily deductions for ancillary services,
- Reduce the administrative burden for businesses that have previously already submitted a request as part of Temporary Foreign Worker Programs (e.g., housing inspections valid for 12 months, reduced number of forms and information requested, fast tracking for businesses who have made no changes for five years and obtained a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment in a year, etc.).

**2016-08**     **Temporary Foreign Worker Program: Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program - Dates**     **TABLED TO LABOUR EXECUTIVE**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:**     *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS the availability of an adequate labour force is necessary to sustain and develop Canadian horticultural businesses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada offers agricultural employers programs allowing them to hire temporary foreign workers (TFWs) in order to fill vacant positions; and

WHEREAS TFWs must wait months before being able to transfer between agricultural employers within a season; and

WHEREAS TFW programs must be suited as best as possible to the current reality of Canadian agricultural businesses; and

WHEREAS processing delays that can take up to 12 weeks, oblige producers to submit TFW requests six months in advance,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to modify the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) so that employers are permitted to hire these workers between December 15 and December 31.

**2016-09**     **Temporary Foreign Worker Program – Agricultural Stream**     **CARRIED**

Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec

**Allocation:**     *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS the availability of an adequate labour force is necessary to sustain and develop Canadian horticultural businesses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada offers agricultural employers programs allowing them to hire temporary foreign workers (TFWs) in order to fill vacant positions; and

WHEREAS TFWs must wait months before being able to transfer between agricultural employers within a season; and

WHEREAS TFW programs must be suited as best as possible to the current reality of Canadian agricultural businesses; and

WHEREAS processing facilities whose operations are directly related to seasonal agricultural production cannot hire more than 10% TFWs as a percentage of their workforce; and

WHEREAS administrative problems that arose with the arrival of Guatemalan workers during the 2014 and 2015 production seasons; and

WHEREAS processing delays that can take up to 12 weeks, oblige producers to submit TFW requests six months in advance,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council petition the Government of Canada to:

- Modify the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) Agricultural Stream to eliminate the 48-month cumulative time limit for working in Canada;
- The TFWP Agricultural Stream provide for a work permit allowing them to transfer quickly and easily between employers within a season;
- Eliminate the TFWP 10% limit for processing facilities whose operations are directly related to seasonal agricultural production;
- Prioritizing the processing of these files be made a priority throughout Canada in order to reduce delays and avoid the issues experienced in 2014 and 2015; and
- Reduce the administrative burden for businesses that have previously already submitted a request as part of Temporary Foreign Worker Programs (e.g., housing inspections valid for 12 months, reduced number of forms and information requested, fast tracking for businesses who have made no changes in the past five years and obtained a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment in a year, etc.), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council immediately apply pressure on the new government due to the urgency of the situation.

**2016-10 Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Breeding Programs**

**CARRIED**

BC Blueberry Council

BC Raspberry Industry Development Council

BC Strawberry Growers' Association

**Allocation:** *Apple and Fruit Committee*

WHEREAS it is important that the Canadian Horticultural Council prioritize Fruit and Vegetable Breeding Programs across Canada, and critical that the Canadian Horticultural Council actively lobby Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to continue to support these programs to the fullest extent possible; and

WHEREAS it is critical to have AAFC collaboration through the provision of infrastructure such as greenhouse space, research laboratories, field space and scientific and technical staff support; and

WHEREAS it is critical that long-term research be the focus of government; and

WHEREAS new plant genetics can contribute to competitiveness of the industry at many levels including quality, storage and shelf life, disease resistance, yields, hardiness, and extension of season; and

WHEREAS the need for new cultivars that are bred for the Canadian climate is something that the growers of Canada require so that they can remain competitive in the world market,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Horticultural Council lobby the Government of Canada to provide 100% funding to fruit and vegetable breeding programs.

**2016-11 Policy Statement Respecting Production Practices **CARRIED****

CHC Board of Directors

**Allocation:** *Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Horticultural Council has adopted a standing policy statement relative to production practices; and

WHEREAS the current standing policy statement is as follows: *The Canadian Horticultural Council supports all approved production practices which will ensure the future viability and sustainability of horticulture production*; and

WHEREAS it is important, where possible, to align policy statements across the value chain,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council amends its standing policy statement respecting production practices to include “Government of Canada approved production practices”, and as such that the standing policy statement shall now be the following:

*The Canadian Horticultural Council supports all Government of Canada approved production methods which will support the future viability and sustainability of horticulture production.*

**2016-12 Impact of Weight Limits for the Transport of Fruits and Vegetables within Canada **CARRIED****

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

**Allocation:** *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS gross vehicle weight limits vary significantly among Canadian provinces; and

WHEREAS those differences prevent trucks from maximizing loads when travelling through different provinces; and

WHEREAS weight limits can become even more restrictive during the winter and spring thaw conditions; and

WHEREAS the lack of harmonization of weight limits among provinces could be considered an interprovincial trade barrier, and is causing serious economic hardship to the horticultural industry; and

WHEREAS the economic hardship also applies to all industries that transport goods across provincial boundaries within Canada, thereby increasing the costs of goods, the number of shipments, fuel consumption, and trade deficits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council work with appropriate federal and provincial departments to harmonize weight limits to the highest level established within Canada.

**2016-13 *Analysis of Weight Limits for Transport of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables within Canada and in the United States* **TABLED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS****

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

**Allocation:** *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS the annual value of trade in fruits and vegetables between Canada and the United States is in the billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS there are difference in the legislated/regulated weight limits for trucks that operate in each country; and

WHEREAS the gross weight limit allowed in the United States is currently lower than is permitted in parts of Canada; and

WHEREAS availability of trucks is a concern on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS increased trucking efficiency through the utilization of all the available space in a trailer would reduce costs and environmental impacts, as well as the total number of vehicles on highways; and

WHEREAS the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) was formed to increase regulatory transparency and coordination between the two countries, and has Transportation as one of the key areas within its mandate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council work with the Regulatory Cooperation Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Transport Canada to document the differences in weight limits for trucks transporting fruits and vegetables within in Canada and in the United States, and to identify means of addressing the differences to support harmonizing weight limits to the highest level established within either country and to enable more efficient transportation on both sides of the border.

**2016-14**     **National Clean Plant Network**     **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS     it is critical for growers of perennial fruit 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) to provide their nurseries with clean planting stock; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the Canadian Horticultural Council request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency develop and implement a program similar to the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) in the United States.

**2016-15**     **Spotted Wing Drosophila**     **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS     berry growers in Ontario and across Canada are now challenged with the management of the invasive insect pest Spotted Wing Drosophila; and

WHEREAS     growers are now having to control this pest both prior to and during harvest in order to save their crops; and

WHEREAS     growers have limited options for control of this pest; and

WHEREAS     recent action by the Environment Commissioner threatens the availability of even some of the currently registered products (e.g. Bifenthrin),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the Canadian Horticultural Council ensure that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency acts so that all conditional registrations be converted as soon as possible to full registrations to assure the availability of these insecticides for Spotted Wing Drosophila for the 2016 use season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED     that the Canadian Horticultural Council ensure that the Agriculture and Agri-food Canada Pest Management Centre (PMC) continue to provide research into the management of Spotted Wing Drosophila, an extremely damaging pest, leading to the registration of both chemical and non-chemical methods, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED     that the CHC work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the BC Blueberry Council to ensure the emergency registration of Bifenthrin for use in the 2016 growing season.

**2016-16**     **Cyclamen Mite Management**     **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS     strawberry growers in Ontario and across Canada are dealing with increased pressure from the cyclamen mite; and

WHEREAS     the primary control product the cyclamen mite, endosulfan, is no longer manufactured and will no longer be allowed for use by strawberry growers after 2016; and

WHEREAS     there is only one remaining active ingredient that is marginally effective,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the Canadian Horticultural Council work closely with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pest Management Centre to ensure that research is conducted leading to the registration of additional products to manage cyclamen mite.

**2016-17**     **Improved Weather Prediction Mechanisms for Horticultural Producers**     **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS     the weather and climate are integral to horticultural production in Ontario; and

WHEREAS     horticultural management decisions are based on weather predictions; and

WHEREAS     different extreme climate and weather have been occurring more frequently; and

WHEREAS     weather predictions have been increasingly inconsistent,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED     that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby all appropriate federal government departments to ensure that weather models are kept updated, and the accuracy of weather prediction is continually improved so as to ensure horticulture producers in Ontario and across Canada are able to make the best management decisions based on predicted weather.

**2016-18**     **Request for Third Party Mediator to Moderate Canadian Partners in Quality Program (C-PIQ) Appeals**     **CARRIED**

New Brunswick Potato Shippers' Association

**Allocation:**     *Potato Committee*

WHEREAS     the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has no third party mediator in place to moderate appeals for Canadian Partners in Quality Program (C-PIQ) clients; and

WHEREAS     the only appeal process is completely within the CFIA; and

WHEREAS the only option for C-PIQ clients is to go through the legal system which is lengthy and costly if there is no satisfaction on appeal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to implement an independent third party mediator to handle appeals for Canadian Partners in Quality Program (C-PIQ) clients.

**LR-2016-19 *Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIA)* **CARRIED AS AMENDED****

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG)

**Allocation:** Labour Committee

WHEREAS under the administration of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) it is required that employers undertake their due diligence with a LMIA (Labour Market Impact Assessment) and local Job Banks; and

WHEREAS employers participating in SAWP are approved for a fixed number of employees based on their compliance with the LMIA and local Job Bank; and

WHEREAS there are times when employees leave their employer prematurely due to personal or domestic reasons originating in their home country; and

WHEREAS this leaves the responsibility upon the employer to repeat the entire LMIA process in order to replace that employee; and

WHEREAS this process significantly increases the length of time an employer is short-staffed prior to receiving permission to replace the lost employee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC work with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to streamline the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program (SAWP) by using existing Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) approvals to enable an accelerated authorisation process for replacing employees.

**LR-2016-20 *Temporary Foreign Worker Program – Agricultural Stream Annual Meetings* **CARRIED****

FERME

**Allocation:** Labour Committee

WHEREAS the availability of adequate labor is necessary for the maintenance and development of the Canadian Farm Business; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Government provides agricultural employers two programs to hire temporary foreign workers (TFWs) to fill job vacancies; and

WHEREAS the two programs have different features and both meet the specific needs of employers in the Canadian horticulture; and

WHEREAS the running of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) as adjustments to meet the needs of employers are part of the annual meetings at which the CCH is participating; and

WHEREAS the agricultural stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (AgStream) can be changed by the federal government without any mechanism that considers the needs of employers; and

WHEREAS the increasing difficulties for employers to get their workers under the AgStream even if it is officially exempt from the changes to the TFW program since 2013,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request that the Canadian government establishes an annual meeting of the Agricultural Stream of the TFW program to which would be invited federal departments, including Service Canada, Employment and Social Development and Citizenship and Immigration, and the CHC to enable ongoing dialogue on the application of the program to ensure better management.

**LR-2016-21 *Increasing Canadian Horticultural Council Lobbying Capacity***

***CARRIED AS AMENDED***

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

**Allocation:** Committee of the Whole

WHEREAS the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and its members recognize the need for significant lobby at the federal level; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Horticultural Council has a mandate to work with our federal government colleagues; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable would recommend increased resourcing for lobby efforts at the federal level,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council allocate specific resources for lobbying resources.

**LR-2016-22 *National Rural Health Strategy***

***CARRIED AS AMENDED***

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

**Allocation:** Committee of the Whole

WHEREAS rural Canada is home to many of Canada's leading industries; agriculture, mining, forestry, oil and gas, electricity generation, fishing and tourism; and

WHEREAS rural health services face unique challenges based on rural demographics, income levels, long distances from critical care and other factors related to the unique nature of rural life; and

WHEREAS rural health services historically and currently have less resources than urban areas; and

WHEREAS Alberta's March 2015, 'Rural Health Services Review' report and PEI's February 2016 'We Can Do Better' report cited the importance of enforcing the universality provision of the Canada Health Act that ensures all Canadians are entitled to accessible health services,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council include in Standing Policy a National Rural Health Strategy that will consider the unique factors and

challenges of rural life and also address the emerging needs of rural life – including but not limited to:

- Definition of rural areas;
- Demographic trends;
- Per capita government resources;
- Emerging technology;
- Emerging professional development of health practitioners;
- Special accreditation and compensation for rural health practitioners; and
- Special needs of rural areas.