

RESOLUTIONS AS ADOPTED
At the 95th Annual General Meeting
Of the
CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Fairmont Winnipeg – Winnipeg, Manitoba
March 14-16, 2017

2017-01 ***Avoiding Unreasonable, Unscientific Food Safety Requirements
by Canadian Retailers*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Allocation: *Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee*

WHEREAS the public expects a safe food system with protection from food-borne illnesses; and

WHEREAS Canada's scientific approach to a national food safety system (CanadaGAP) ensures Canada's food supply is one of the safest in the world; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has reviewed the CanadaGAP program, that can be and often are favourably benchmarked against other international food safety programs; and

WHEREAS there is a new trend to add retailer-specific food safety rules that are not based on science or reviewed by CFIA; and

WHEREAS the concentration of retailers in the marketplace is leading to unequal market power in which retailers can abuse their dominant market position and impose unreasonable requirements on growers and their packers; and

WHEREAS Great Britain and Australia have implemented a "Retailer Code of Practice" that could control the unreasonable imposition of retailer-specific requirements for food safety,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC work in partnership with CFIA to request the Retail Council of Canada and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association to adopt a policy that:

RCC/CPMA members must present requests for any food safety rules to CanAgPlus (or the equivalent organizations responsible for CFIA-review national food safety programs), and those requests should always be science-based, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CHC work in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to urgently request that the federal Department of Justice and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada seek to have Canadian retailers recognize CFIA-reviewed national food safety programs as the sole food safety programs that are required in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC work in partnership with CFA to advocate for legislation to implement a broad-based retailer code of practice to avoid further abuse of the dominant market position of highly concentrated retailers.

2017-02 **Keeping CanadaGAP Practical** **WITHDRAWN**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Allocation: *Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee*

2017-03 **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Funding for Invasive Pests** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Fruit Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS new invasive pests such as Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Clearwing Moth, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug have been detected in recent years in Canada; and

WHEREAS Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions have not yet been found for these new pests; and

WHEREAS IPM has a public benefit by reducing pesticide use; and

WHEREAS Invasive insect pests are an economic and horticultural threat to the viability of the Canadian horticultural sector,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that federal and provincial governments introduce a comprehensive response plan for the monitoring and control of invasive pests, enhancing Integrated Pest Management for fruits and vegetables.

2017-04 **Expedited Application Process:
Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Horticulture Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association

Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS Canadian horticultural farmers have completed job searches since 1989 with the result of all the requested temporary foreign workers requested being granted, as Canadians have been unwilling to fill these positions; and

WHEREAS Canadian horticultural farmers support a Canadian first employment policy and the hiring of temporary workers creates jobs for Canadians on their farms and makes it possible to farm the manual labour intensive crops they have; and

WHEREAS Service Canada experiences significant burden processing applications that for decades have been for the same jobs and the same requirements; and

WHEREAS these horticultural farms have a proven history with the use and application of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) on their farms; and

WHEREAS the process needs to be less onerous as well as more cost and time efficient for all involved,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request of Service Canada that an expedited process be considered, for example a trusted employer card, for farms that have a specified history of good standing with the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program.

2017-05 ***Expedited Application Process:***
Temporary Foreign Workers Program – Ag Stream **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Horticulture Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association
Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS Canadian horticultural farmers have completed job searches since 1989 with the result of all the requested temporary foreign workers requested being granted, as Canadians have been unwilling to fill these positions; and

WHEREAS Canadian horticultural farmers support a Canadian first employment policy and the hiring of temporary workers creates jobs for Canadians on their farms and makes it possible to farm the manual labour intensive crops they have; and

WHEREAS Service Canada experiences significant burden processing applications that for decades have been for the same jobs and the same requirements; and

WHEREAS these horticultural farms have a proven history with the use and application of the Agriculture Stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) on their farms; and

WHEREAS the process needs to be less onerous as well as more cost and time efficient for all involved,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request of Service Canada that an expedited process be considered, for example a trusted employer card, for farms that have a specified history of good standing with the Temporary Foreign Workers Program – Ag Stream.

2017-06 ***Approval of a Placement*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Horticulture Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association
Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS if Service Canada approves a placement for a seasonal foreign worker, but for unforeseeable reasons the worker cannot complete the service, the approved placement has to be assigned to another worker; and

WHEREAS it would seem unreasonable to have to re-apply for a placement that has already been approved; and

WHEREAS time involved in the re-application process usually results in the replacement worker being available after the worker is needed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request that if a placement is approved by Service Canada but a seasonal foreign worker is unable to complete the service, the employer will not need to reapply for the previously approved placement.

2017-07 ***Movement of workers to help other
Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) approved farms with short-term labour shortages*** **TABLED TO THE LABOUR COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE**

Horticulture Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association
Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS it is a common occurrence during the growing season for one farm to experience a temporary labour shortage while a neighbouring farm will have labour not being fully utilized due to the seasonality of different crops; and

WHEREAS it would be of tremendous benefit to both farms and workers to temporarily move labour from one farm to the other; and

WHEREAS the farms need to be registered in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP); and

WHEREAS Service Canada and the Liaison/Consulate services must be informed of the worker whereabouts; and

WHEREAS the worker would stay on the original employer's payroll and the original farm would invoice any other SAWP approved farms for the wage cost for the worker; and

WHEREAS the movement of workers to assist other SAWP approved farms is not a money making proposition, rather only cost recovery,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request of Service Canada that workers can be moved from one farm (the original employer) to assist other Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) approved farms on a short term basis when and if required, provided that proper notification is given to Service Canada, F.A.R.M.S., and the supply country Liaison/Consulates.

2017-08 ***Standard Container Sizes for Seed Potatoes*** **WITHDRAWN**
New Brunswick Potato Shippers' Association
Allocation: *Potato Committee*

2017-09 **Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Fruits and Vegetables** **WITHDRAWN**

BC Blueberry Council
BC Raspberry Industry Development Council
BC Strawberry Growers Association
Allocation: *Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee*

2017-10 **Tariff Reduction/Elimination on Exports to China** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

BC Blueberry Council
Allocation: *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS with increased production of Canadian fruits and vegetables, gaining and strengthening export market access is a priority for the Canadian fruit and vegetable industry; and

WHEREAS the expanded market access to China has potential for significant growth in exports; and

WHEREAS high tariffs continue to be a barrier in maximizing exports to China, particularly for blueberries in relation to other Canadian fruit and vegetables (i.e.: tariff rate on cucumbers is 13%, cherries 10% and blueberries 30%),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby the Government of Canada to build on the established market access in China by requesting that China reduce their tariffs from 30 percent to 13 percent by July 2020 on HS Codes: 08104012, 08119012 and 08119011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council put the Government of Canada on notice to include in their Canada-China free-trade preliminary talks the terms of tariff elimination on all Canadian fruits and vegetables.

2017-11 **National Quality Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Canada** **CARRIED**

CHC Trade and Marketing Committee
Allocation: *Committee of the Whole*

WHEREAS the quality grade standards for fresh fruits and vegetables in Canada traditionally have been managed and maintained by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA); and

WHEREAS the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) collaborated with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) in an initiative to review and update the outdated quality grade standards for fresh fruit and vegetables; and

WHEREAS in addition to proposed grade amendments, the initiative identified the critical need for an alternate means to manage the standards in a timely and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS quality grade standards establish one of the critical baseline elements used by the DRC for credible dispute mediation and resolution; and

WHEREAS the concept of housing and maintaining the grade standards outside of the CFIA was supported by industry and has since been discussed with both the CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC); and

WHEREAS the CFIA has acknowledged the need to ensure that the quality grade standards contained in the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* continue to meet the needs of industry and that it would support, in conjunction with all stakeholders, exploring the merits of retaining and maintaining the grade standards in a manner that would facilitate timely amendments; and

WHEREAS the quality grade standards for fresh fruit and vegetables are ideally suited to be retained and managed outside of the CFIA through incorporation by reference; and

WHEREAS reference to the incorporation by reference of grade standards within the Executive Summary of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* gives rise to the opportunity to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the Dispute Resolution Corporation to maintain the Canadian Grade Compendium for fresh fruit and vegetables,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council support the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) in its initiative to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to house and maintain the quality grade standards for fresh fruit and vegetables in Canada.

2017-12 *Financial Payment Protection for Canadian Produce Sellers and the Restoration of Canada's Preferential Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) Status* **CARRIED**

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

Allotment: *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS the matter of financial payment protection for produce growers and sellers and the absence of a deemed trust in Canada has, and continues to be a financial hardship; and

WHEREAS the 2011 Beyond the Borders Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan sought to “develop comparable approaches to financial risk mitigation tools to protect Canadian and US fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations”; and

WHEREAS the lack of resolution resulted in the October 2014 action by the United States to revoke Canada's preferential treatment under the US *Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act* (PACA); and

WHEREAS during the last Federal election, the Liberal Party of Canada pledged to provide farmers of perishable produce with an acceptable Canadian Perishable

Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)-like program and work with the United States to restore Canada's preferential access to PACA; and

WHEREAS fruit and vegetable producers continue to not have financial protection mechanisms in our domestic marketplace; and

WHEREAS the absence of a reciprocal financial protection tool continues to be a trade irritant with our largest trading partner, the United States; and

WHEREAS in May - June 2016, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food held hearings to examine options for re-establishing Canada's preferential access to the dispute resolution mechanism under the US PACA; and

WHEREAS the horticulture industry developed and tabled a draft legislative proposal for a deemed trust prepared by Professor Ronald Cuming,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby the Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada respectively to take immediate action on longstanding industry requests and the proposal presented to, and supported by, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food to implement a payment protection program for produce growers in case of buyer bankruptcy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC urge the government to negotiate with the US to restore Canada's privileged access under the US *Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act*.

2017-13a

Next Agricultural Policy Framework

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS there is significant variation in average farm operating characteristics between agricultural sectors and regions across Canada; and

WHEREAS many current programs do not appear to consider differences in the capital requirements, operating margin sensitivities, and other similar factors between various farm types when designing these programs; and

WHEREAS this often results in programs that are designed to benefit a certain type of farm at the expense of those which do not fit within a normalized production/cropping model; and

WHEREAS small groups of non-standard farming operations, such as those found within the horticulture sector, often face difficulties in fitting their farming style into standardized program requirements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC lobby the federal and provincial governments to recognize the significant variation in agricultural production across sectors and regions and subsequently design programming to better reflect the needs of farms

within each agricultural commodity or sector, regardless of size or operating characteristics.

2017-13b ***Next Agricultural Policy Framework:
Non-BRM Programming***

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS significant positive social contributions toward environmental stewardship, economic development, and social responsibility can be made by farms of all sizes; and

WHEREAS many non-BRM funds are often left unspent due, in part, to flat allocations based on arbitrary applicant funding caps or ceilings; and

WHEREAS these arbitrary restrictions, combined with complex and/or administratively cumbersome application and reporting requirements, result in lower than optimal uptake;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC lobby the federal and provincial government to make significant adjustments to all current and future collaborative funding stream programs to reduce the application, reporting, and administrative restrictions that prevent farms and related businesses from effectively accessing these funds; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that if the federal and/or provincial governments are not willing to significantly modify existing collaborative streams, the CHC lobby to remove any application penalty accrued to an applicant or group of applicants who are attempting to leverage multiple government programs to meet the fiscal requirements of a specific project.

2017-14a ***Support to Address Climate Change***

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

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

WHEREAS the technologies, procedures, and processes necessary to facilitate transition to a low-carbon economy will require a fundamental shift in the way energy is managed both on-farm and in the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS adoption of these emerging technologies will be expensive, difficult, and risky for horticultural growers; and

WHEREAS some possible outcomes from climate change could involve extreme weather events, intermittent water scarcity, and infestation by new and existing invasive species and emerging diseases; and

WHEREAS these outcomes could have a detrimental impact on horticultural growers across Canada; and

WHEREAS the response from the agriculture sector to these challenges will benefit society by stabilizing food costs and ensuring food security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC work with the federal government to put in place targeted innovation and adaptation funds to both drive fundamental research and to help farmers mitigate the impacts of a changing climate, including: alternative and renewable fuel options for heating and cooling, novel insulation materials, strategies for enhanced production efficiencies and tools to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species and emerging diseases through biosecurity planning.

2017-14b **Net-Zero Carbon Pricing Impact** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

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

WHEREAS the federal government has committed to the implementation of a national carbon pricing policy; and

WHEREAS these costs will impact growers ability to remain competitive when compared to jurisdictions that do not have in place a carbon pricing mechanism and threatens food security by increasing food costs, impacting the most vulnerable of our society; and

WHEREAS there must be a recognition of the unique nature of Canadian agriculture as differentiated from other jurisdictions with carbon pricing and lower heat demands, such as California;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC request the federal government put in place programs and funding to ensure the competitiveness of Canadian horticultural producers is not compromised by the imposition of a national carbon pricing policy.

2017-15 **AgriRecovery Response** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS the AgriRecovery application process is difficult to initiate and contains numerous unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS an emergency or disaster situation by its very nature demands a rapid response; and

WHEREAS AgriRecovery does not adequately bridge the cavernous gap between structured business risk management programs and losses incurred due to a disaster situation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC work with the federal government to increase the effectiveness of AgriRecovery by reducing the time spent between initial request and final approval, as well as minimizing the compensation gap between AgriRecovery and other Business Risk Management programs so that farmers can effectively recover from disaster situations.

2017-16 **Capital Cost Allowance** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS modern farming practice continually requires more extensive and expensive capital investment; and

WHEREAS the federal government has expressed a wish for agriculture to increase jobs and exports; and

WHEREAS the barrier to an acceleration of such investment lies with access to capital and the timeframe currently required to expense it against income; and

WHEREAS an accelerated write-down of such capital investment for farming would provide the incentive for rapid expansions in buildings, equipment and for the innovation technology needed to expand production and output from our farms,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC approach the federal government with a proposal to implement an Accelerated Capital Cost Depreciation Program for specified agricultural capital investment allowing a 1 or 2 year depreciation write-down on such investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CHC make it abundantly clear that this proposal is not asking the government for the capital and that these investments would create such additional employment and farm output that it would more than offset the request for the Canadian economy.

2017-17 **Crop Protection Products** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) continues to re-evaluate crop protection products; and

WHEREAS Health Canada and the PMRA have a mandate to continue the use of crop protection products until a replacement product exists,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC lobby Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to continue their commitment to not deregister crop protection products when there is no replacement product that the horticultural industry considers effective.

2017-18 **Diversified Farms** **WITHDRAWN**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

2017-19 ***Establishment of a CHC Energy and Environment Working Group*** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Committee of the Whole*

WHEREAS federal policy issues involving energy and the environment have become high priorities for government over the past few years; and

WHEREAS proposed and suggested legislation at the federal levels indicate this trend will continue, and likely strengthen; and

WHEREAS appropriate energy and environmental policy responses can mean the difference between a competitive Canadian horticulture sector and a sector in decline;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC establish an Energy and Environment Working Group under the Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee with the primary focus of evaluating and developing policy for energy and environmental issues, with the objective of advancing horticultural priorities at the federal level.

2017-20 ***National Subscription for Pesticide Residue Limits*** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS growers and exporters need up to date information on pesticide residue limits in all potential market places; and

WHEREAS Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) cancelled their national subscription to such a service in 2014 under the impression that a free service available then would suffice; and

WHEREAS the free service was eliminated leaving no available source of such residue limit data for growers and exporters to access; and

WHEREAS such a service can be purchased by AAFC for a very reasonable cost and made available across Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC petition Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Market Access Secretariat to purchase and provide pesticide residue limit data on an annual basis.

2017-21 ***On-Farm Experience to Pest Management Regulatory Agency Staff*** **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

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

WHEREAS the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) evaluation staff need first-hand experience of horticultural production practice; and

WHEREAS on-farm tours have proven to be valuable to impart such knowledge; and

WHEREAS such tours conducted in the past have been dropped for financial reasons and staff time away from their day jobs; and

WHEREAS staff development is considered a high priority item in Health Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC offer on-farm tour experience to Pest Management Regulatory Agency staff on an annual basis working in partnership with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, CropLife Canada, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and other interested partners, and contribute a share of the funding to make it happen.

2017-22 Restoring AgriStability Coverage **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS both the Federal and Provincial governments state that the AgriStability program is the primary Business Risk Management (BRM) response vehicle for income losses accrued due to a disaster situation; and

WHEREAS the 2013 AgriStability program year doubled the amount a farmer's reference margin must decline before triggering a payment, from 85% to 70%; and

WHEREAS this trigger level change has drastically reduced the utility provided by AgriStability to the point where enrollment levels are rapidly declining,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC recognize that returning AgriStability coverage from the current 70% trigger to the previous 85% trigger and elimination of reference margin capping is the highest federal and provincial Business Risk Management lobby priority, and to work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) to return AgriStability support to those levels in the Next Agricultural Policy Framework.

2017-23 Celebrating the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS labour represents a significant portion of all horticultural farm expenses; and

WHEREAS labour positions involved in planting, crop care and harvesting continue to be essential toward fruit, vegetable, and ornamental crop production in Canada; and

WHEREAS our farmers must compete against jurisdictions with much lower wage and other societal costs in both domestic and export markets; and

WHEREAS the availability of suitable local labour for planting, crop care, harvesting, and other important farm tasks is often limited in many growing regions across Canada; and

WHEREAS the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and the low-skill and agriculture streams of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program provide an essential

source of farm labour that allows Canadian farmers to compete against international companies; and

WHEREAS SAWP celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016, providing a good opportunity to highlight its contributions to Canadian farms and its positive impact on international employees' lives and families,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC work with FARMS, FERMES, WALI and the Federal Government to highlight the positive contribution made by the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and build up the political and public support necessary to ensure the program's continued success for the next 50 years.

2017-24 Responding to North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Threats **CARRIED**

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

Allocation: *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS total horticultural exports from Canada to the United States have grown from \$1.6 billion in 2010 to \$2.5 billion in 2015, a 56% increase in five years; and

WHEREAS total horticultural imports into Canada from the United States have grown from \$3 billion in 2010 to \$4.5 billion in 2015, a 44% increase in five years; and

WHEREAS the current administration in the United States has signaled intent to reopen NAFTA, which could jeopardize this \$7 billion trade flow; and

WHEREAS the negotiation of trade agreements is a federal authority requiring national cooperation and coordinated political pressure,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC work with the federal government and other industry groups to monitor tariff and non-tariff trade barrier threats to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), develop a position paper that supports maintaining the free flow of trade products across the border, and lobby for these conditions.

2017-25 Deadline and Detail for Feedback on Cost Recovery - Phase 1 **CARRIED**

Prince Edward Island Potato Board

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced on January 26, 2017 that it was initiating a two-phased consultation process on cost recovery, with a very tight deadline of March 31, 2017 for responses; and

WHEREAS the CFIA has spent several years reviewing its policies and costing out what it feels are the costs of delivering its services but has not shared the actual analysis with industry; and

WHEREAS the CFIA has stated that, based on its costing work, the full costs of delivering its activities to regulated parties is approximately \$824M per year, with approximately \$533M of this representing costs for activities that CFIA feels "benefit" regulated parties; and

WHEREAS the CFIA has stated that it currently recovers about 10% of this through fees, and would like to see this amount increase dramatically; and

WHEREAS CFIA has advised that an impact assessment questionnaire which asks for feedback as to the impacts of potential fee increases of 50%, 100% and 200% on individual businesses will be a very important component of the consultation; and

WHEREAS many farmers and other industry members (packing sheds, processors, etc.) are not even aware that the consultation is underway on an issue that is of critical importance to their ability to operate; and

WHEREAS consultation sessions over the nine week period during which feedback is requested are not being offered in every province, therefore limiting the ability of industry members to understand what is being proposed;

WHEREAS the CFIA is also currently doing a consultation on the *Safe Foods for Canadians Act* regulations which will likely result in changes to the way in which CFIA regulates farms and other industry members, with the details of those changes being as yet unknown,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) lobby the federal government to extend the deadline for Phase 1 feedback to September 1, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to provide much greater detail during that extended period as to the types of services and the service standards that it envisions for the Canadian horticultural sector so that meaningful feedback can be provided regarding the impact of the proposed cost recovery changes on the sector.

2017-26 Research and Innovation Fund

CARRIED

Québec Caucus

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS investments in research and development (R&D) in the agriculture and agri-food sector are an essential resource for innovation and improving productivity; and

WHEREAS innovation also makes it possible to develop and implement growing practices that are better for the environment, particularly by producing new inputs that lower environmental risk; and

WHEREAS public spending on R&D in the agriculture and agri-food sector, expressed as a percentage of gross revenues, has decreased over the past five years; and

WHEREAS massive investments in R&D are needed to make up for lost time and to prepare to meet new challenges; and

WHEREAS horticultural associations make little use of collective tools to establish mandatory contributions due to the range of products and marketing networks involved; and

WHEREAS this greatly limits their financial means and, in turn, their ability to invest the capital needed to fund provincial and national R&D projects (e.g.: agri-science cluster); and

WHEREAS a review of the programs may lead to an increase in AgrilInvest,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, for the sectors or regions that request it, the CHC explore linking enrolment in an AAFC risk management program, like AgrilInvest, to a supplementary contribution equivalent to 0.1% of eligible net sales for agricultural businesses, which will go into a research fund for the sector.

2017-27 Standing Policy Statement on Carbon Pricing

CARRIED

CHC Board of Directors

Allocation: *Committee of the Whole*

WHEREAS the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) does not have a standing policy statement respecting carbon pricing; and

WHEREAS the CHC accepts that climate change is a global issue that needs to be addressed with a global perspective, gaining support on the part of governments, industries, businesses, communities, and individuals; and

WHEREAS the provincial governments have been given until 2018 to implement one of two pricing systems or the federal government's floor price for carbon emissions (\$10 per tonne, which will rise by \$10 per tonne per year until it reaches \$50 per tonne in 2022) will be imposed; and

WHEREAS current carbon pricing policies vary widely; firstly, between Canadian provinces, and secondly between global trading partners; in their implementation timelines, provision of rebates, and program options or flexibility (e.g. emission credits); and

WHEREAS the immediate financial impacts on horticultural growers as well as the negative effect on the industry's competitiveness, growth, and investment in Canada, are magnified by these variances in carbon pricing policy, as demonstrated by the further destabilization of Canadian farms, the relocation of Canadian investment, and disadvantages for Canadian farmers in key international markets and/or advantages for imported produce; and

WHEREAS the horticulture industry is in a critical position, intricately knit to the health of the environment, subject to shifts in climate change, and relied-on for sustainable and secure food production; and

WHEREAS specifically, the greenhouse vegetable sector is placed at serious risk for several reasons including: their need for carbon dioxide as a production input, the massive investment required for greenhouse infrastructure and monitoring systems to produce heat and carbon dioxide on-farm, and the added external cost that reduces competitiveness of the trade-intense sector, effectively acting as a non-tariff barrier,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council adopt the following Standing Policy statement respecting carbon pricing:

The Canadian Horticultural Council recognizes that climate change is a global issue that needs to be addressed. Given the significant impacts that carbon pricing policy has on growers, individual sectors, and the entire horticultural industry, the Canadian Horticultural Council is committed, along with its members, to petition the appropriate levels of the Canada government. In addition, the Canadian Horticultural Council will work with federal departments including, but not limited to, Environment Canada and Climate Change Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to ensure that carbon pricing impacts on the Canadian horticultural industry's competitiveness, growth, and investment are understood and supported.

It is critical the Canadian government works towards the harmonization of carbon pricing policies with the signatories of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and, until harmonization is achieved, provide consistent support and relief for growers across provincial boundaries within their respective carbon pricing policies and programs.

More specifically, the Canadian government, already valuing the horticultural industry as an economic driver, must acknowledge the horticultural growers' continued role and contributions towards the intersecting priorities of both climate change mitigation and food production. We resist the concept of a carbon price without a formal plan to demonstrate how funds collected will address the challenges faced by growers in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Canadian Horticultural Council will lobby the federal government to continue to provide guidance in the implementation of provincial carbon pricing policies.

2017-28 ***Assuring a Fair Relationship between
the Prices Paid to Farmers and Retailer Profit Margins***

CARRIED

BC Greenhouse Growers' Association

Allocation: *Trade and Marketing Committee*

WHEREAS the public expects that farmers have received fair compensation for their products; and

WHEREAS the concentration of retailers in the marketplace is leading to unequal market power in which retailers can abuse their dominant market position and impose unreasonable requirements on farmers and their packers; and

WHEREAS farmers' costs are being driven up by retailers requiring products in a wide variety of specialty packs and packaging; and

WHEREAS farmers are being required by retailers to participate in costly exchange programs such as recyclable plastic containers and pallets; and

WHEREAS the retail price of vegetables has continued to rise while the prices paid to farmers has not risen proportionally,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC advocate for legislation to implement a broad-based grocery retailer code of practice to avoid further abuse of the dominant market position of highly concentrated retailers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC advocate that this grocery retailer code of practice include provisions for fair compensation paid to farmers for their products and set maximum profit margins for fruits and vegetables at retail.

2017-29 **Tax Changes for Small Business Implemented in 2017** **CARRIED**

BC Greenhouse Growers Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS the federal government put forward changes to the Small Business Tax deduction that took effect in 2017; and

WHEREAS these changes will have a significant impact on family owned farms, rural businesses, and agricultural cooperatives throughout the country; and

WHEREAS many farm operations involve multiple farm families; and

WHEREAS farm families typically involve cross ownership to be able to work together to be able to maintain trust, cooperation and efficiencies; and

WHEREAS many farm operations and rural businesses may also provide goods and services to corporations they or family members have an interest in, such as agricultural cooperatives; and

WHEREAS the new rules will result in many farms having tax rates increase from 13% to 26.5%; and

WHEREAS the new rules will result in farms not having the same dollars to keep investing in their business or expanding their operations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC lobby the federal government to provide relief for Canadian farms in regard to recent changes that unduly limit their access to the Small Business Tax Deduction.

2017-30 **Standardization of Re-evaluations, Special Review and Regulatory Decisions of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the US Environmental Protection Agency** **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

Québec Caucus

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

WHEREAS the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) submitted a five-year work plan (REV2016-07) to re-evaluate more than 60 active ingredients and to conduct special reviews of 40 active ingredients between 2015 and 2020; and

WHEREAS the document submitted by the PMRA does not mention that Canada works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out re-evaluations and special reviews; and

WHEREAS these re-evaluations may result in the loss of registration for several active ingredients used in Canadian horticulture and which may continue to be registered in the United States; and

WHEREAS the Canadian horticultural industry operates in an open market, without trade protection, characterized by \$7 billion in trade with the United States for fresh fruit and vegetables alone; and

WHEREAS the competitiveness of Canadian horticultural businesses is severely affected by the current PMRA process, which does not take into account the concept of reciprocity with the U.S. EPA for re-evaluations, special reviews and regulatory decisions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC requests that the Government of Canada fully standardize the PMRA's re-evaluation, special review and regulatory decision process with that of the U.S. EPA (CANADA-UNITED STATES JOINT PROCESS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC requests that the PMRA establish a joint schedule for re-evaluations and special reviews starting in 2017 with the U.S. EPA.

2017-31 ***Application for the Temporary Foreign Worker Program – Agricultural Stream***
CARRIED AS AMENDED

Québec Caucus

Allocation: *Labour Committee*

WHEREAS problems arose with the arrival of the Guatemalan workers and other worker covered by the agricultural stream during the 2014,2015 and 2016 growing season as a result of the tightening of the standards within the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) in 2013 by the federal government; and

WHEREAS the report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities on the TFWP presented to the House of Commons on September 19, 2016, brings hope; and

WHEREAS the Committee's recommendations call for increased efficiency in managing the TFWP, especially concerning processing times and administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS the Quebec members of the CHC are of the opinion that several of this document's recommendations could be implemented immediately; and

WHEREAS the federal government agreed to announce the implementation of the measures recommended in the report by the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities,

WHEREAS the federal government announced on December 13, 2016, the first steps in a series of major changes to the TFWP, including the abolishment of the 48-month limit, which will speed up the processing of work permit applications. The immediate implementation of this recommendation is key to preserving the expertise of TFWs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC approach the federal government to ensure that the recommendations made by the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with

Disabilities in the TFWP report, are implemented immediately in order to facilitate the arrival of temporary foreign workers and prevent the delays that have been occurring over the last three years,

- Employment and Social Development Canada examine the application process for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), in order to increase speed and efficiency.
- Employment and Social Development Canada implement a “trusted employer” program to reduce the LMIA processing times for employers that have proved reliable in their use of TFWs.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada provide multiple-entry visas to temporary foreign workers to allow them to come and go more freely; and that when a work permit is extended, the multiple-entry visa is also extended, allowing workers to continue to enter and exit Canada,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reintroduces the “all approved employers” work permit for Agricultural Stream workers in order to allow Employment and Social Development Canada to permit workers’ transfers within the same framework in place in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).

2017-32 Restore the AgrilInvest Annual Contribution Cap **WITHDRAWN**

BC Greenhouse Growers’ Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

2017-33 Restore the AgrilInvest Government Contribution to the Previous Level **WITHDRAWN**

BC Greenhouse Growers’ Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

2017-34 Transfer AgriStability Budget Savings to Other Programs **WITHDRAWN**

BC Greenhouse Growers’ Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

2017-35 Canadian Agricultural Water Infrastructure Projects **CARRIED**

BC Greenhouse Growers’ Association

Allocation: *Business Risk Management Committee*

WHEREAS water is a very valuable commodity; and

WHEREAS potable water is expensive to produce and scarce during times of drought;
and

WHEREAS most of horticulture does not require potable water for irrigation; and

WHEREAS an infrastructure project to ensure a secure supply of good clean non-potable water is very expensive,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC lobby for Canadian agricultural water infrastructure investments to be supported by low cost loans through the newly created Canada Infrastructure Bank.

LR2017-36 **Lack of reference to the Destination Inspection Service (DIS) in the draft Safe Food for Canadians Regulations** **CARRIED**

Trade and Marketing Committee

Allocation: Trade and Marketing Committee

WHEREAS creation of the DRC was the first of a four-part long term strategy for the industry which included: establishment of the DRC, amendments to the (CFIA) Destination Inspection Service, Single Licensing and creation of a PACA-like limited deemed trust as a financial payment protection tool in Canada, and

WHEREAS the availability of a timely and credible CFIA-generated destination inspection provides evidence which is critical to effective dispute resolution, and

WHEREAS the CHC along with representatives from regional trade associations, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, U.S. grower/shipper organizations, the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) and officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Agriculture Marketing Services of the USDA worked diligently for several years to enhance fair and ethical trading practices in the Canadian marketplace, a key component of which is destination inspection, and

WHEREAS in July 2006, the CFIA announced the modernization of its Destination Inspection Service (DIS) for fresh produce in an effort to improve service for an important agricultural sector and contribute to market stability the revised Fresh Produce Destination Inspection Service, and

WHEREAS proposed amendments pertaining to Regulations Amending Certain Regulations Administered and Enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency referencing Destination Inspection Service were published in Canada Gazette Part 1, Vol. 111, No. 6 on February 6, 2010 and firmly and formally supported by the CHC as necessary to ensure that the much-needed destination inspection service is available and sustainable, and

WHEREAS the recently published Safe Food for Canadians Regulations make no mention of or reference to the Destination Inspection Service,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Horticultural Council lobby the CFIA to include reference to the Destination Inspection Service and also submit written comments during the comment period for the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations which ends on April 21, 2017.

LR2017-37 **Keeping CanadaGAP Practical** **CARRIED**

Quebec Caucus

Allocation: Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee

WHEREAS The CanadaGAP on farm food safety program is based on scientific food safety research and practical knowledge of farm practices; and

WHEREAS some impractical requirements can be inadvertently introduced into programs such as food safety; and

WHEREAS CanadaGAP for horticulture is under purview of CanAgPlus, an independently managed corporation; and

WHEREAS there is a review mechanism to allow a decision of an auditor to be contested,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC request CanAgPlus to establish a process so that all new changes to be studied for implementation in the program go through a consultation period through the members of the CanadaGAP technical committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CHC request CanAgPlus to allow a review process to be completed when an auditee contests the result of any audit, before a certificate gets pulled from the published list of certified operations.

LR2017-38 *Spotted Wing Drosophila*

CARRIED

BC Blueberry Council

Allocation: *Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee*

WHEREAS berry growers 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 2017 use season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHC 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 to ensure the emergency registration of Bifenthrin for use in the 2017 growing season.