



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*Healthy Plants,
Healthy People.*



Canadian
Horticultural
Council

Conseil
canadien de
l'horticulture

The voice of Canadian fruit and vegetable growers



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Message from the President

Throughout the year, the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) has been focused on influencing federal policy as it relates to fruit and vegetable growers across Canada. This was done through government consultations, as well as advocacy efforts leading up to and following the 2019 federal election. CHC has been actively engaged with the federal parties and their representatives, while equipping our members with the tools they need to have their voices heard within Canada's newly-elected government. As always, we greatly appreciate the hard work of our members who consistently demonstrate their support while helping to ensure the sustainability of our industry.

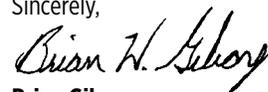
Exciting developments in 2019 included the launch of our documentary, ***Heartbeat: A celebration of international farm workers***, which has now reached nearly 2 million people and helped to build a more balanced understanding of our industry's labour needs. *Heartbeat* has been instrumental in portraying the mutual benefit that the international worker programs provide to growers here in Canada and the workers who come from overseas.

On the policy front, our advocacy efforts, with the support of our member organizations, led to many other successes this year. Health Canada removed burdensome regulatory measures from the *Pest Control Products Act*. Employment and Social Development Canada is moving forward in examining a Recognized Employer Program to reduce the administrative burden on farmers with a long and good standing in Temporary Foreign Worker Programs. Additionally, Finance Canada exempted agriculture-affiliated corporations from the changes to the Small Business Deduction. Furthermore, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provided our industry with a year-long extension to implement lot code requirements on consumer pre-packaged fruits and vegetables to allow for time to use up current packaging. And finally, the Conservative and New Democratic parties included a commitment in their election platforms to establish a statutory deemed trust for producers and growers and then work towards having Canada's preferential access to PACA restored.

Looking to the future, we see ourselves focusing on a few key issues. These include crop protection, climate change and its impact on crops, global food security and the challenges of feeding a growing population, shifting consumer expectations and new international trade complications, public trust in a changing agricultural landscape at a time when consumers want to buy local, increasing amalgamation and the disappearance of the small, family-owned farm, and next generation leadership, which demands succession planning on farms.

With 2020 now upon us, a new decade has begun. We find ourselves emboldened by the work at hand, and eager to continue applying our efforts throughout 2020 – the International Year of Plant Health – as well as the years to come. With this in mind, I hope you will join me in once again recognizing the important work that CHC staff, chairs and my fellow members of the Board of Directors continue to do in support of Canadian horticulture.

Sincerely,



Brian Gilroy
President





Message from the Executive Director



For almost 100 years, The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) has acted as the voice of Canadian fruit and vegetable growers. Our vision continues to be one of an innovative and sustainable fruit and vegetable industry as we face new social, economic and environmental challenges. Each day, we tackle these challenges by promoting policy and decision-making that supports our current strategic priorities, which consist of crop protection, labour, food safety, and sustainability.

In addressing these priorities, we are constantly striving to share growers' stories and bring their voice to the fore. Sharing growers' stories is particularly prudent as we enter 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) United Nations' International Year of Plant Health. Growers act as stewards of plant health and the sustainability of our industry, which provides Canadians and people around the world with healthy fruits and vegetables. For this reason, a celebration of plant health is akin to a celebration of growers' commitment to their business, their craft and their industry.

That's why in 2020 we feel particularly privileged to present CHC's 2019 Annual Report, which details how we have continued to support Canada's horticulture sector and its dedicated growers over the past year.

ELECTION 2019

On October 21, 2019 Canadians elected a new federal government, and granted Justin Trudeau and the Liberals a minority government. Leading up to the election, CHC was hard at work to ensure that we would be heard by any newly elected government – a government that would be making policy decisions that would impact fruit and vegetable farmers.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020

Not only did we meet with elected officials and the major federal parties, but we also equipped growers to amplify our grassroots message and ensure that our industry was supported from coast to coast—and to remind our elected officials of the important role farmers play in Canada's economy. We produced fact sheets, graphics and policy documents on key topics to engage policy-makers and the broader public, and we asked growers to help our elected officials understand who they are representing by equipping them with tools, resources and guides on contacting their local representatives and having their voices heard in their local media. We also developed surveys that were sent to each of the main federal parties, and in response we received strong commitments on different actions the parties would take to support our sector. Our main areas of focus included financial protection for produce sellers, crop protection, labour, the need for Canadian data in making regulatory decisions, business risk management and the need for a deemed trust to protect our growers, carbon pricing, and international trade.



Looking forward, we now welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the federal government on all issues of great importance to our members.

“...a celebration of plant health is akin to a celebration of growers’ commitment to their business...”

FARM TO PLATE 2020 AND ENGAGING WITH THE NEW PARLIAMENT

Following the 2019 federal election, CHC once again partnered with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) for our annual Farm to Plate advocacy event on Parliament Hill on February 25, 2020.

This was our first opportunity to meet with the new class of Members of Parliament as well as with Senators and senior government officials. During the event, we had a chance to engage new parliamentarians and policy-makers, reconnect with those we have already worked with in the past, and introduce first-time

parliamentarians and government officials to our industry while discussing our concerns, priorities, and the changes we hope to see in our sector.

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH

2020 is the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). CHC is happy to take part in this exciting opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development around the globe. This is especially important when new developments and challenges in plant health abound – from regulatory cooperation between nations to the new challenges presented by climate change.

It’s critical that Canada take a leading role in ensuring plant health remains a priority at home and around the globe. And the International Year of Plant Health is a perfect time for all nations to work together to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can address the issues of food security, poverty and climate change, all while supporting economic development.

With our partners under the umbrella of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, we have been building a new level of understanding and appreciation for plant health. A major element of this is consistently weaving discussions about plant health into our communications and engagements with policymakers, which is why the Spring 2020 edition of our *Fresh Thinking* magazine, entitled *Healthy Plants, Healthy People*, is focused on plant health through an exploration of innovations in crop protection.

In my position of Executive Director of the Canadian Horticultural Council, I have been honoured to have been nominated by our industry colleagues as co-chair of the Canadian Plant Health Council (CPHC) and I am happy to see Canada addressing priorities in this area. This reflects the work CHC undertakes with our partners on preventive approaches, bringing together industry associations, academics, as well as federal, provincial and territorial governments to discuss and address priorities surrounding plant health.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the past year, farmers around the country have faced many challenges. This includes everything from regulatory changes to packaging and labelling requirements, climate events, from drought and flooding to an early winter that impacted harvests, and non-tariff trade barriers that have made it difficult – or impossible – to sell commodities in international markets.

And as we look to the future, we are aware of some of the key challenges our sector will face. These include public trust in relation to crop protection and international labour, shifting consumer expectations and appetites, changing weather patterns that impact production and demand, new diseases and pests, as well as protectionism and ever-changing trade agreements. Strengthening the business risk management programs will be one of the ways CHC will be seeking to support our farmers.

We are also aware of the critical need to plan for the changes brought on by an aging grower population. This means we must build support the next generation of growers as the demographics of our sector changes and fewer people are living on farms and in rural communities. The next generation of growers will face new budgetary challenges and is already suffering from a lack of corporate memory and formalized mentorship opportunities.

That's why we will be making every effort to complement the work our members are doing in their provinces with their programs designed to involve the next generation in horticulture politics. The young professionals who will be the growers of the future are gradually taking over family businesses and will introduce many of the new ideas our sector needs to thrive long into the future and ensure continuity in representing farmers to our government.

With all this in mind, there are many opportunities on the horizon – opportunities presented by innovations in automation and robotics, new ideas and thinking that are being brought to the fore, and new research that is leading to more sustainable processes, more environmentally friendly packaging, and more efficient crop protection methods.



Above all, our job will be one of remaining relevant and leading on the international stage by highlighting opportunities to innovate in horticulture and ensure to long-term sustainability of our industry in Canada and around the globe. We will do this by promoting sustainable solutions to labour challenges, advocating for evidence-based regulations in crop protection, and demonstrating the need for economically sustainable approaches to combatting climate change. We know there is much work to be done, and we look forward, as the CHC staff, to continue working on behalf of our members with the support of our chairs and Board of Directors.



In Numbers

 **2million**

Our *Heartbeat* documentary and awareness campaign in celebration of international farm workers has now reached approximately 2,000,000 people, and reaches more each day while helping to build a more nuanced understanding of our industry's labour needs.

 **45**

We were successful in securing over 45 formal meetings with policy- and decision-makers and other government officials to advocate on behalf of growers.

 **9**

In the past year we sent nine letters to federal Ministers and senior government officials. The Prime Minister's mandate letters to Cabinet Ministers contained a number of positive signals that our priorities will be worked on. The lobbying activities, cooperation and collaboration of our members were extremely helpful in achieving these promising results.

 **11**

We made 11 formal submissions to Government of Canada consultations, ensuring that the voice of Canadian fruit and vegetable growers was taken into account.

 **2**

We gave two submissions to House of Commons Standing Committees. These testimonies centred on the perception of public trust in the Canadian agricultural sector and pre-Budget 2020 consultations. Our testimony from Fall 2018 was included in the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food's 2019 report on mental health in agriculture.

 **53**

We distributed 53 Member Notes on important, time-sensitive issues impacting our sector.

 **6,100**

We have over 6,100 followers on Facebook, many of whom share our content and updates on a regular basis. This following is helping us communicate more effectively with growers and the general public around the country.

 **800**

Over 800 people follow us on a Twitter, many of them policy- and decision-makers or industry leaders. This following is helping us to actively engage with the most influential organizations and individuals in our sector and around the country in real time.

 **29**

Representatives from CHC sit as members on more than 29 boards, councils, other stakeholder groups, collaborating on many areas of focus in support of Canada's fruit and vegetable growers.

Business Risk Management



Business risk management (BRM) tools are essential to Canada's agriculture. Over the past year CHC has requested that the federal government ensure there are funds allocated to allow Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s continued review of current BRM programs, and work with industry to ensure these programs are effective.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGES TO BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the government's Business Risk Management (BRM) programs help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of the farm. They provide protection against different types of income and production losses. CHC advocates on behalf of fruit and vegetable growers to ensure the maximum effectiveness of Canada's BRM programs: AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance, and AgriRecovery.

CHC belongs to the AgGrowth Coalition, which is comprised of: CHC, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Grain Growers of Canada, the National Sheep Network, the Canadian Canola Growers' Association, and Grain Farmers of Ontario. The coalition advocates to government on BRM matters with a strong, unified voice.

Throughout 2019, CHC and the AgGrowth Coalition advocated for four key recommendations to improve BRM programs:

1. Immediately adjust AgriStability coverage to cover losses starting at 85 percent of historical reference margins with no Reference Margin Limits
2. Prioritize discussions on production insurance for livestock and horticulture crops which are not currently covered under AgriInsurance
3. Ensure meaningful discussions with industry on BRM programming options and focus on program effectiveness rather than funding levels
4. Establish an industry-government technical working group that allows farm groups to actively participate in BRM data and impact analysis

The Coalition frequently met with representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, as well as the Minister to discuss these important recommendations. According to evolving needs, the



coalition hired a consultant as well as a government relations organization to provide it with the necessary background support in preparing for meetings and communicating on the importance of improved BRM programs to government and the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED TO FPT AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

In July and December 2019, Ministers of Agriculture from across the country, known collectively as the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers, met to discuss issues of critical importance to Canada's agriculture sector, including BRM. CHC, along with the AgGrowth Coalition, actively used their networks to lobby the ministers on the above recommended improvements to BRM. Outcomes include general government commitments to continue exploring options.

SMALL BUSINESS DEDUCTION

Announced in Budget 2018, changes to specified corporate income (SCI) rules impacted many corporations in the agricultural sector by significantly increasing shareholders' cumulative taxes – costing them up to millions of dollars annually.



CHC and its industry partners presented Finance Canada and the Minister of Finance with concrete examples of this impact and demonstrated how moving to a cooperative model (which is exempt under the rule changes) is regressive and does not align with modern business practices. Following this pressure, Finance Canada announced an amendment in Budget 2019 to expand the current exemption afforded to cooperatives to all affiliated corporations that are engaged in producing, marketing and distributing agricultural products.

These changes allow sales of farming products to affiliated corporations to be excluded from specified corporate income and thus eligible for the small business deduction, preventing an increase in taxes. This will allow farmers to continue to reinvest in and grow their businesses.

AGRIRISK PROJECT PROPOSAL

The horticulture sector is highly diverse, and many farms are without an accessible crop insurance policy under AgrilInsurance, with coverage varying considerably across provinces, and in general coverage mainly for yield shortfall. The core BRM program, AgriStability, provides some protection against key risks faced by the sector, covering margins on a whole-farm basis. However, growers have been vocal about the gaps in coverage, including limited coverage levels of 49 percent; reference margin limits; ineligible expenses; and lack of more benefit for highly diversified farms. In order to improve program effectiveness for fruit and vegetable

farmers, CHC is working on a proposal to submit under AAFC's AgriRisk program. The proposed project would be to develop an innovative risk management tool for the Canadian horticulture sector based on the creation of a Diversity Index (DI), which would provide enhanced and more representative coverage for growers beyond what is available under AgrilInsurance and AgriStability. The diversity index would provide a mechanism to account for the individual risk profiles of farms who actively spread their risk by having varying numbers of crops, seasons of harvest, geographic areas, etc. The outcome of this project would be a "top-up" insurance product that would be ready to launch as a pilot and would provide lower premiums and/or higher coverage levels for those farms that are more diversified.

The main activities of the project would include:

- 1) Conducting a risk assessment through a survey and interviews with key informants to create an industry risk profile to better understand and measure the diversity of the industry,
- 2) Collecting data and developing alternative insurance design concepts, and
- 3) Performing the actuarial analysis, including rate development, and testing the market via focus groups to select the optimal insurance design that is well-accepted by the sector and ready to launch as a pilot.



LOOKING AHEAD

CHC is working with the AgGrowth Coalition to press the FPT ministers and AAFC to revise the BRM suite of programs so that it is a useful support tool for farmers within the current trade and climate context.

Pending the approval of the BRM AgriRisk project, CHC will encourage our members to participate in developing a diversity index that should help expand the coverage under the current BRM suite.

Other issues CHC will continue to push for are improvements to the Advance Payment Program; increasing the level at which farm businesses are still considered a small business; and increasing the Lifetime Capital Gains limit for farmers. CHC will continue monitoring any changes to the small business tax rules.

Crop Protection



Fruit and vegetable growers rely on a wide range of crop protection strategies, such as integrated pest management plans and government-approved pesticides, to ensure the health of crops, the safety of Canadians, and Canada's overall food security.

Plant health, biosecurity and availability of crop protection tools are all key components to market access and are important to the protection of the environment. CHC develops and advances crop protection management policies and programs that support market access and promote the economic viability and competitiveness of Canada's fruit and vegetable growers, while providing safe, healthy food to consumers across Canada.

RE-EVALUATIONS

This year, CHC monitored and/or submitted comments regarding the re-evaluation decisions for: mancozeb, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid, naled, chlorpyrifos, triflorine, dimethomorph, thiophanate methyl, pyriproxyfen, and fenhexamid.

Current Status: Neonicotinoids

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the final decisions for the pollinator special reviews in April 2019. Continued uses include roots & tubers (including potatoes), brassica leafy vegetables, leafy vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, and seed treatments. Cancelled uses include pome & stone fruit, strawberries, soil applications (on berries, fruiting vegetables, legume vegetables, cucurbits), and all pre-bloom foliar applications. Final decisions for the aquatic invertebrate special reviews will be published Fall 2020. Proposed special review decisions for thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and imidacloprid will be published in Fall 2020, while general proposed decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam will be released summer 2020.

Current Status: Mancozeb

Previously, a final decision for mancozeb was published in June 2018, which allowed 10 foliar applications on potatoes but cancelled uses unanticipated from the proposed re-evaluation published in 2013. In August 2018, thanks in part to CHC's efforts, the PMRA acknowledged the inconsistencies between the final decision and the proposed decision, and revoked its final decision. In October 2018, the 2013 proposed decision was reissued with clarification that all uses were proposed for cancellation. In 2019, CHC worked with registrants and other stakeholders to clarify the needs for mancozeb in Canadian horticulture, and the PMRA's final decision is anticipated for summer 2020.

PMRA'S REVIEW OF THE RE-EVALUATION PROCESS

PMRA initiated a review of the re-evaluation program in 2018 with the goal of increasing both its efficiency and effectiveness. A *What Was Heard* report was published in Feb 2019, and we await further results and implementation in 2020.

In good news, the PMRA was released from its obligation to conduct Special Reviews when an OECD country bans an active ingredient, allowing the health minister the choice to conduct special reviews, freeing up PMRA time and resources.

CHC lobbies on an ongoing basis for increased funding to both the PMRA and AAFC's Pest Management Centre (PMC) to ensure that re-evaluations and registrations are conducted in an efficient, science-based manner, and alternative products are registered for use.

DATA COLLECTION & USE

In 2019, it became clear that the PMRA requires real Canadian data in order to make informed re-evaluation decisions. Pesticide use data and environmental monitoring data (such as water monitoring) are needed in order to make decisions based on actual Canadian use of crop protection materials. With robust environmental and use data, economic data could be incorporated for consideration in re-evaluations, as is done in the Biological and Economic Analysis Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). CHC collaborated on two letters with stakeholders and attended meetings with the PMRA and US EPA regarding these issues. CHC continues to conduct surveys and provide information as needed to the PMRA, while proactively exploring ways to facilitate data collection.

INDUSTRY & GROWER MEETINGS

CHC attended a number of conferences and workshops in 2019, including the GrowCanada conferences in April and December 2019, the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (February), the Trilateral Stakeholder Workshop and Coordination Meeting (formerly the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides) (September), the IR-4 meeting (September), the North American Plant Protection Organization (October). Additionally, in November CHC presented to the Agromart

Group regarding the PMRA and status of re-evaluations. In July, CHC also attended a minor use field tour in Saskatchewan with members of the PMRA, hosted by the local Provincial Minor Use Coordinator.

POST APPLICATION EXPOSURE

CHC regularly works on issues surrounding post application worker exposure and its effect on re-evaluations. CHC chairs a working group which held five meetings in 2019, and is moving forward with plans to conduct studies that would support the use of Personal Protective Equipment by workers during post application activities which could potentially reduce re-entry periods.

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRL)

Thanks to efforts and funds from CHC, access to the Bryant Christie Global MRL database became a national resource in 2019. CHC participated in the Industry-Government Working Group on MRLs, which met five times in 2019, and focused on the effect of MRL decisions made by the European Union (EU). CHC also consulted and commented on changes to MRLs in the EU, China, Japan, and Codex, emphasizing how changes would affect export of Canadian fruits and vegetables. CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Group formed an MRL subcommittee and is performing a scoping exercise to determine the effects of the GMRL on imports after re-evaluation decisions.

At the MRL Harmonization Workshop in May 2019, CHC participated in discussions on paths to global harmonization, the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement, Levels of Quantification and the effects on MRL detection, and the advantages of science-based/risk-based MRLs and decision making.

CROP PROTECTION FIELD TOUR

CHC's Crop Protection Field Tour took place on August 20, 2019. CHC hosted the PMRA, CFIA, AAFC (including the Pest Management Centre), OFVGA, Crop Life Canada, and OGVG. This group of nearly 50 industry representatives visited four Ottawa-area farms & greenhouses: Dentz Orchards and Berry Farm, Mountain Orchards, SunTech Greenhouses, and Rideau Pines Farm. Growers gave tours of their fields and equipment, answered questions, and visitors had a chance to witness raspberry, strawberry, tomato, apple, cucumber, and mixed vegetable production.

DIVERSIFYING THE TOOL BOX: MINOR USE PESTICIDES

CHC supported the PMC's Biopesticides and Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop again in 2019, by hosting and managing online registrations for the event and attending the workshop in person.

CANADIAN PLANT HEALTH COUNCIL



In 2019, the Canada Plant Health Council (CPHC) identified key areas of work and established working groups covering the topics of Surveillance, Biosecurity, and Emergency Response. In November 2019 the CPHC held four information webinars to update partners and stakeholders on their progress, and to encourage participation and feedback. CHC continues to co-chair the CPHC.

HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE

The Horticulture Value Chain Round Table (HVCRT) was revitalized and restructured in 2019, and a Crop Protection Working Group was formed. CHC co-chairs the working group, which has met twice in order to unite national organizations to address issues relating to this critical topic.

POLLINATORS

CHC continues to sit on the Bee Health Round Table, which looks at both biotic and abiotic factors that affect pollinator health in Canada. Planting guides, communications, a national pollinator strategy, and blueberry pollination were the primary discussion topics.

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species is the national voice on invasive species issues. Membership includes provincial governments and organizations, federal ministries, industry representatives and indigenous groups. CHC sits on the Board of Directors of the Council. Programs to stop the movement of invasives, such as PlayCleanGo and Buy Local Burn Local, remain strong. Work is ongoing to determine interest in an Invasive Species Awareness Week/Month.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHC advocates for increased PMRA funding, to be dedicated to improvements to the re-evaluation process, and for re-evaluation decisions to be made with real Canadian data. One of our highest priorities continues to be data collection – how best to collect data and provide it to the PMRA while investigating ways to facilitate proactive data collection.

We also support AAFC's PMC and the Minor Use Program, and will continue to advocate for effective crop protection solutions.

Finally, we continue to monitor and respond to the increasing number of re-evaluations. Grower feedback, in the form of anecdotes, comments, concerns, or survey responses remain vital to this process. Looking ahead, we will be working closely with all stakeholders and communicate clearly on unified messages that will be heard and acted upon by the Canadian government.

Ongoing PMRA Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Horticulture (updated: February 7, 2020)(up to May 2020)

FUNGICIDE

Active Ingredient	Mancozeb* Group-M	Folpet Group M	Thiophanate-Methyl Group 1	Dimethomorph Group 40
Trade Name	DITHANE Fungicide	FOLPAN Fungicide	SENATOR Fungicide	ACROBAT, FORUM Fungicide
Consultation Status	Sept 27, 2013 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision June 2018 Re-issued: June 2020	RVD2020-02 Final Decision	PRVD2019-07 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision	PRVD2019-03 Pending final decision
Re-evaluation Category				1
Proposed Decision Impacting Horticulture	Cancel all Uses	Acceptable for all agricultural uses, with mitigation measures: Wettable powder products cancelled for use on apples, crab apples, cranberries. Increased PPE for mixer/loader/applicators. Increased REIs.	Cancellation of some uses: Aerial application using wettable powder products. High rate on apples and pears in British Columbia (low rate still acceptable). Peach, nectarine, plum, prune, cherry. Commercial seed treatment of bean seeds using wettable powder products. On-farm dry application to bean seeds using wettable powder products. Potato seed piece treatment for all product formulations.	Approved for continued registration with some label amendments: PPE, REIs, buffer zones
Horticultural Food Uses Proposed to be Impacted	Potato, Carrots, Ginseng, Onions, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflowers, cabbage, tomatoes, cucurbits, apples, grapes, asparagus, celery	Apples, crabapples, grapes, strawberries, cranberries, cucumbers, melons, pumpkin, squash, tomatoes	Apple Pear Peach Nectarine Plum Prune Cherry Potato Strawberry Raspberry Blueberry (lowbush)	Brassica vegetables, Bulb vegetables, Cucurbits, Fruiting vegetables, Ginseng, Grapes, Hops, Leafy vegetables, Potatoes, GH ornamentals, GH cucumbers (MUP), GH lettuce (MUP)

Azoxystrobin Group 11	Kresoxim-Methyl Group 11	Cymoxanil Group 27	Fenhexamid Group 17	Tebuconazole Group 3	Difenoconazole Group 3
QUADRIS Fungicide	SOVRAN Fungicide	CURZATE, TANOS Fungicide	ELEVATE, DECREE Fungicide	FOLICUR Fungicide	INSPIRE Fungicide
Public consultation (cyclical): Nov 2019	Public Consultation (cyclical): April 2019 Nov 2019	Public consultation (cyclical): Nov 2019	Public consultation (Cyclical): PRVD2020-01	Public consultation (cyclical): Feb 2020	Public Consultation (cyclical): Oct 2018 Feb 2020
1	1	1	1	1	1
			Acceptable for continued use, with mitigation measures: Increased PPE for mixers/loaders/ applicators, Increased minimum restricted entry interval (REI) from 4 to 12 hours, Increased REIs for some post- application activities in cherry & grape		
Succulent shelled pea and bean, potatoes, field tomatoes, sweet corn, ginseng, asparagus, spinach, carrots, daikon, rutabaga, turnip, garden beet, radish, ground cherries, cabbage, cranberries, celery, strawberries, blueberries, sweet potatoes, cucurbit vegetables, GH and outdoor ornamentals	Apples, Grapes, Pears	Potatoes, Field tomatoes, caneberries	Grapes, Ginseng, Raspberries, Strawberries, Field tomato transplants grown in GH, GH cucumber, GH lettuce, GH tomatoes, GH peppers, GH eggplant, ornamentals	Asparagus	Brassica vegetables, Bulb vegetables, Cucurbits, Fruiting vegetables, Potatoes, Chinese artichoke, Jerusalem artichoke, Edible canna, Sweet potato, Pome fruit, Grapes

FUNGICIDE

Active Ingredient	Zoxamide Group 22	Cyprodinil Group 9	Triforine Group 3	Iprodione Group 2	Fenbuconazole Group 3	Pyraclostrobin Group 11
Trade Name	ZOXIUM Fungicide	VANGARD, SWITCH Fungicide	FUNGINEX Fungicide	ROVRAL, ID Fungicide	INDAR Fungicide	HEADLINE, CABRIO, PRISTINE Fungicide
Consultation Status	Public consultation (cyclical): May 2020	Public Consultation (cyclical): April 2019 June 2020	Public Consultation (reg before 1995): March 2019 July 2020	Public consultation (Special Review): July 2020	TBD	TBD
Re-evaluation Category	1	1				
Proposed Decision Impacting Horticulture						
Horticultural Food Uses Proposed to be Impacted	Potatoes, Grapes, Onion (bulb)	Apple, Stone fruit, Grapes, Onions, Strawberries, Blueberries (high and low), Caneberries (Group 13-07A), Carrots, Mustard greens, turnip greens, Cabbage, Crop Group 5B (ripini, bok choy etc), Crop Group 3-07 (garlic, leek, onion, etc), Saskatoon berries, Crop Group 1B (beet, radish, etc), Celery, Ginseng, Spinach, peppers (field), tomatoes (field), Bushberries (Group 13-07B), Low growing berry (Group 13-07G)	Blueberry (highbush and lowbush), cranberry, saskatoon berries, Peaches, Cherries, Plums, Prunes, Apple (nursery stock & non-bearing trees)	GH lettuce, Carrot seed (imported), Ornamentals, Potato (seed piece trt)	Stone fruit, blueberry (highbush)	Edible-podded legumes (Group 6A), Succulent shelled beans and peas (Group 6-B), potatoes, blueberries (highbush & lowbush), bulb vegetables, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, garden beet tops, radish tops, root vegetables, stone fruit, strawberries, berries, Belgian endive, brassica vegetables, grapes, GH cucumbers, GH lettuce, GH peppers, GH tomatoes, leafy vegetables, pome fruit

HERBICIDE AND PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR

Active Ingredient	Linuron Group-7	Ethephon	Uniconazole	Mineral Spirits	Linuron Group 7	Quizalofop-p-ethyl Group 1
Trade Name	LOROX Herbicide	ETHREL Plant Growth Regulator	SUMAGIC Plant Growth Regulator	GUARDSMAN Herbicide	LOROX Herbicide	ASSURE II, YUMA Herbicide
Consultation Status	Sept 24, 2012 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Dec-2016 Dec-2019 Feb 2020	Dec 2017 PRVD2018-01 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Dec 2019	Public Consultation (cyclical): Nov-2018 Aug 2019	Public Consultation (cyclical): March 2020	Public Consultation (Special Review): March-2018 April 2020	Public Consultation (cyclical): Jun 2020
Re-evaluation Category			2	1		1
Proposed Decision Impacting Horticulture	Cancel all uses	Cancellation of uses on apple tree when fruit are present. Revocation of MRLS of apple, apple juice, citrus fruit, grape, raisin. Additional PPE and restricted amount handled/day. Lengthened REIs for some post application activities. Buffer zones, hazard statements on labels, vegetative strips, and BMPs.				
Horticultural Food Uses Impacted	Asparagus Carrots Caraway Celery Coriander Dill Parsnip Potato Apple Peach Pear Plum Cherry Saskatoon berry Sweet Corn	Tomato, apple, blueberry, cherry	GH tomato seedling for transplant, ornamentals	Carrots, Parsnips, Celery, Cranberries, Asparagus	Asparagus Carrots Caraway Celery Coriander Dill Parsnip Potato Apple Peach Pear Plum Cherry Saskatoon berry Sweet Corn	Peas, snap beans, saskatoon berries, rutabagas, cucurbit vegetables

INSECTICIDE

Active Ingredient	Imidacloprid Group 4	lambda-cyhalothrin Group 3	Phosmet Group 1B	Dichlorvos Group 1B
Trade Name	ADMIRE Insecticide	MATADOR Insecticide	IMIDAN Insecticide	DDVP Insecticide
Consultation Status	Nov 23, 2016 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Dec-2018 Jan-2020 Fall 2020	Jun 23, 2017 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Mar-2019 Mar 2020	June 30, 2017 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Dec-2018 Jul 2020	PRVD2017-16 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Sept 2019
Re-evaluation Category		1		1
Proposed Decision Impacting Horticulture	Cancel all Agricultural Uses	Cancel all Agricultural Uses	Cancel all Uses	Phase out all greenhouse uses
Horticultural Food Uses Proposed to be Impacted	Potatoes, Root Veg (1-B), Tuberous and Corm Veg (1-D), Sweet Potato, Leaves of Root and Tuber Veg (2), Leafy Greens (4-A), Leafy Petioles (4-B), Brassica Leafy Veg (5), Legume Veg (6), Fruiting Veg (8), Cucurbit Veg (9), Pome Fruit (11), Stone Fruit (12), Berry –Small Fruit (13-A,B,F,G), Cranberry, Herbs (19-A), Globe Artichoke Seed Treatments In-Furrow GH (drench and irrigation): Tomato, Cucumber, Pepper, Eggplant, Lettuce, Brassica 5A	Apple Peach/Nectarine Strawberry Potato Tomato Corn (sweet) Bulb Vegetables Lettuce (head, leaf) Choke Cherry Brassica Leafy Vegetables (5A) Celery Legume Vegetables (6) Asparagus (ferns) GH Lettuce Sweet Potato Carrot Saskatoon Berry Cucurbit Vegetables (9)	Apple* Blueberry* Carrot Celery Cherry (Sour)* Cranberry Grape* Pear* Peach* Plum* Potato *controls Spotted Wing Drosophila	GH cucumbers, GH tomatoes

Dichlorvos Group 1B	Chlorpyrifos Group 1B	Naled Group 1B	Tebufozide Group 18	Clothianidin (Aquatic Invertebrates) Group 4A	Thiamethoxam (Aquatic Invertebrates) Group 4A	Cyromazine Group 17
DDVP Insecticide	DURBAN, LORSBAN Insecticide	DIBROM Insecticide	CONFRIM Insecticide	CLUTCH Insecticide	CRUISER, ACTARA Insecticide	GOVERNOR, CITATION Insecticide
Special Review REV2018-01 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision March 2019 Feb 2020	PRVD2019-05 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision	Special Review PSRD2019-02 PSRD2019-03 Response submitted Pending Final Decision	PRVD2019-06 Pending Final Decision	Special Review July 2018 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Jan 2020 Fall 2020	Special Review July 2018 Response Submitted Pending Final Decision Jan 2020 Fall 2020	Public Consultation (cyclical): PRVD2020-02
			1			1
No unacceptable risks to human health and the environment, taking into account the implementation of the proposed conditions of use from PRVD2017-16		Cancel all Use	Label updates: personal protective equipment, spray drift, and REIs	Cancel all outdoor uses	Cancel all outdoor uses	Cancel uses on: Potatoes, leafy vegetables, celery, leafy brassica vegetables, GH lettuce, cut flowers, GH ornamentals Acceptable uses: Treated green onion seed, mushrooms
GH cucumbers, GH tomatoes	Strawberry, celery, cucumber, pepper (green), pak choi, broccoli, brussels sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, garlic, rutabaga, potato, onion, carrot, Asian radish, radish, Chinese broccoli, green onion, shallots	Beans, peas, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, potato, tomato, strawberry, ornamentals, onion, GH tomato, GH cucumber, GH roses and cut flowers, GH eggplant, GH peppers	Apples, Peppers (GH), Tomatoes (GH), lettuce (GH), Pears, Cranberries, Bushberries (Group 13-07B)	Potato (Nipsit seed piece treatment), Sweet potato, pome fruit, grape, strawberry, cucurbit vegetables, stone fruit	Sweet corn, beans, peas, cucurbit vegetables, potatoes, leafy vegetables (group 4), brassica vegetables (group 5), fruiting vegetables (group 8-09), apples, crabapples, pear, oriental pear, root vegetables, cane berries, bushberries, cherries, low growing berries, field pepper, GH peppers	Potato, GH ornamentals, outdoor ornamentals, GH lettuce, mushrooms, celery, leafy vegetables (group 4), leafy brassicas (group 5B), onions

INSECTICIDE

Active Ingredient	Abamectin Group 6	Pyrethrins Group 3	Clothianidin (Squash bees) Group 4A	Thiamethoxam (Squash bees) Group 4A	Imidacloprid (Squash bees) Group 4A
Trade Name	AVID, AGRI-MEK Insecticide/Miticide	SAFER'S, BUG-X Insecticide	CLUTCH Insecticide	CRUISER, ACTARA Insecticide	ADMIRE Insecticide
Consultation Status	Public Consultation (cyclical): Jan-2020 Fall 2020	Public Consultation (reg before 1995): Jan-2020 Fall 2020	Public Consultation (Special Review): Dec-2018 Feb 2020	Public Consultation (Special Review): Dec-2018 Feb 2020	Public Consultation (Special Review): Dec-2018 Feb 2020
Re-evaluation Category	1				
Proposed Decision Impacting Horticulture					
Horticultural Food Uses Proposed to be Impacted	GH tomatoes, GH peppers, GH cucumbers, Apples, Pears, Caneberries (subgroup 13-07A), strawberries, celery, potatoes, grapes, bulb onions (subgroup 3-07A), green onion (subgroup 3-07B),	Asparagus, Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Cauliflower, Celery, Cucumber, Eggplant, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Peppers, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach, Tomatoes, Turnips	Potato (Nipsit seed piece treatment), Sweet potato, pome fruit, grape, strawberry, cucurbit vegetables, stone fruit	Sweet corn, beans, peas, cucurbit vegetables, potatoes, leafy vegetables (group 4), brassica vegetables (group 5), fruiting vegetables (group 8-09), apples, crabapples, pear, oriental pear, root vegetables, cane berries, bushberries, cherries, low growing berries, field pepper, GH peppers	Potatoes, Root Veg (1-B), Tuberous and Corm Veg (1-D), Sweet Potato, Leaves of Root and Tuber Veg (2), Leafy Greens (4-A), Leafy Petioles (4-B), Brassica Leafy Veg (5), Legume Veg (6), Fruiting Veg (8), Cucurbit Veg (9), Pome Fruit (11), Stone Fruit (12), Berry –Small Fruit (13-A,B,F,G), Cranberry, Herbs (19-A), Globe Artichoke Seed Treatments In-Furrow GH (drench and irrigation): Tomato, Cucumber, Pepper, Eggplant, Lettuce, Brassica 5A

INSECTICIDE AND MOLLUSCICIDE

Metaldehyde	Clothianidin (general) Group 4A	Thiamethoxam (general) Group 4A	Pymetrozine Group 9B	Acetamiprid Group 4A
DEADLINE M-PS Molluscicide	CLUTCH Insecticide	CRUISER, ACTARA Insecticide	ENDEAVOR, FULFILL Insecticide	ASSAIL Insecticide
Public Consultation (Special Review): April 2020	Public Consultation: June 2020	Public Consultation: June 2020	Public Consultation (Special Review): June 2020	Public Consultation (cyclical): Feb 2021
				1
Cabbage, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Caneberries Low growing berries (subgroup 13-07G), ornamentals	Potato (Nipsit seed piece treatment), Sweet potato, pome fruit, grape, strawberry, cucurbit vegetables, stone fruit	Sweet corn, beans, peas, cucurbit vegetables, potatoes, leafy vegetables (group 4), brassica vegetables (group 5), fruiting vegetables (group 8-09), apples, crabapples, pear, oriental pear, root vegetables, cane berries, bushberries, cherries, low growing berries, field pepper, GH peppers	GH tomatoes, GH peppers, GH cucumbers, GH eggplant, GH & outdoor ornamentals, leafy vegetables (Group 4), potatoes, blueberries	Leafy vegetables, Cole crops (group 5), field tomato, pome fruit, potato, leafy vegetables (group 4), ground cherry, field peppers, stone fruit, strawberries, blueberries (lowbush and highbush), bushberries (group 13-07B), grapes, sweet corn, rutabaga, succulent shelled pea and bean (subgroup 6B), edible podded pea, asparagus, caneberries (13-07A),

- Category 1** re-evaluations have the longest projected timeframes and typically require the submission of information prior to proceeding with updating the risk assessments. Evaluations could include, but are not limited to review of the new studies and the application of revised toxicology endpoints in exposure assessments. In some cases, an active ingredient with a large number of uses, emerging science issues, and/or extensive monitoring data can contribute to the increased level of effort and longer review timeline required to complete a proposed decision document.
- Category 2** re-evaluations typically do not require additional information to be submitted to PMRA, yet they may include a detailed evaluation of some areas, such as updating a risk assessment using current assumptions or including additional new information in drinking water estimates.
- Category 3** re-evaluations are those in which all components may be adequately addressed by previous reviews and a detailed new evaluation is not warranted; however, the outcome of a Category 3 re-evaluation could still require that product labels be updated to meet current labelling requirements.

Energy, Environment and Climate Change



The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) works to inform federal policy in regards to energy and fuel, greenhouse gas emissions, water, and climate change. Our Energy, Environment and Climate Change Working Group helps to ensure the competitiveness, growth and investments made by growers into research, technology, and infrastructure are acknowledged and supported.

CARBON POLLUTION PRICING EXEMPTIONS

As part of the federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, Part 1 of the federal system (the fuel charge) began to apply in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick on April 1, 2019, and in Nunavut and Yukon on July 1, 2019. Other provinces and territories remained under their own provincial or territorial system. In Alberta, the new provincial government repealed its carbon levy in May, and now partially meets federal benchmark requirements. As a result, as of January 1, 2020 the federal charge has been implemented.

Under the federal system, farmers receive an upfront exemption for the use of some on-farm fuels. As a result of pressure from CHC and its greenhouse members, the government of Canada granted greenhouse growers an exemption for 80 percent of their fuels. This was a big step in the right direction to level the playing field for Canadian farmers and greenhouse growers; however, CHC is keeping the pressure on for greenhouse growers to be recognized as farmers and qualify for the 100 percent exemption.

Beyond that, CHC continues to advocate for the entire range of farming activities and machinery used in modern Canadian primary agriculture to be acknowledged and eligible for relief, as well as the full suite of fuels that farmers use. Specifically, this involves including the heating or cooling of a building for farming activities as eligible farming machinery, as temperate control is essential for the primary production of perishable fruit and vegetables, and adding natural gas and propane to the definition of Qualifying Farming Fuel.

CHC has also been insisting that the government must recognize the efforts made by farmers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and examine existing best practices.

SUPPORT FOR CPMA PLASTICS WORKING GROUP

As many of us know, changes in consumer attitude and government policies can have huge consequences for our industry. One such sentiment that has gained popularity in recent years is a desire among consumers to reduce plastic waste. As a result, governments around the world, including those at the municipal, provincial and federal level in Canada, have begun to act in order to reduce the use of single use plastics. In June 2019, the government of Canada announced it would take action to ban the use of problematic single-use plastics as early as 2021.





Canada's produce sector has already begun taking action. Under the leadership of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA), our industry will examine how produce packaging can evolve and continue to deliver on produce choice, quality, affordability, safety, and minimized food waste – while also reducing packaging's environmental impact. CHC, as an allied stakeholder, supports the efforts of CPMA and its Plastics Working Group.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL WATER PROGRAM

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) requires up-to-date water monitoring data in the risk calculations when evaluating crop

protection products. Without it, the PMRA has been relying on other jurisdictions' data, usually the United States. CHC has urged the federal government for many years to re-instate water monitoring programs under Environment and Climate Change Canada so that decisions that impact Canadian farmers are based on Canadian data.

CHC was therefore extremely pleased to see that included in the Prime Minister's mandate letter to the newly appointed Minister of the Environment and Climate Change was a direction to create a new Canada Water Agency supported by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. CHC looks forward to working with both ministries, as well as the PMRA, to ensure the best possible data is being used to make decisions that impact our farmers.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHC will continue to advocate for the inclusion of all fuels, for all activities, under the exemptions afforded to farmers under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, as well as a full exemption for greenhouse growers. As farmers across the country experienced extreme weather in 2019, CHC will

drive the urgent call to action for climate adaptation programs, particularly looking at ways in which federal, provincial and local governments can support water programs such as irrigation, storing, and drainage. CHC will also continue to support CPMA's Plastics Working Group.

Industry Standards and Food Safety

Health professionals recommend a diet that is high in fruits and vegetables. CHC works with industry and government departments on issues affecting industry standards, plant health and food safety to ensure consumers have access to healthy and fresh produce of the highest quality.

SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS REGULATIONS

On January 15, 2019, the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) came into force along with the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*. While some requirements were to be met immediately by businesses in the fresh fruit and vegetable (FFV) sector, others, such as preventive controls and traceability, had an extended deadline until January 15, 2020.

Lot Code Requirement

The SFCR includes a provision to include a “lot code” on consumer prepackaged food that is not packaged at retail. This requirement came as a surprise, as it was not previously consulted on, its implementation would have a costly impact on the sector, and there is concern that the impact on mitigating food safety issues would be minimal. A lot code is defined as a code that can be used to identify a lot that was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, graded packaged, or labelled under the same conditions. To be compliant, growers and packers were facing significant investments associated with re-tooling or purchasing new hardware, software, packaging and printing materials, as well as labour costs.

After much consultation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFV) industry was granted an extended parameter on the definition of lot code to support more flexibility. CFIA will allow “growing region” as the lot code, to enable producers to continue field packing without substantive change or cost. CFIA also granted the FFV industry until January 15, 2021 to use up existing packaging material.

Nevertheless, CHC and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association remain firm in the assertion that consumer prepackaged produce traceability has little to no impact on the safety and health of Canadians given the realities of how tracebacks operate. Scientific evidence should be provided to demonstrate that the requirement(s) actually lead to a safer food supply and are not just an additional cost and administrative burden for farmers.

Preventative Control Plans

As of January 15, 2020, also within the SFCR, licensed FFV businesses, as well as growers and harvesters of FFV for export or interprovincial trade, need to meet food safety preventative control (PCP) requirements.

Fortunately, FFV businesses in Canada that have implemented voluntary food safety programs, such as CanadaGAP, will already be in compliance with these PCP requirements. However, new PCP requirements on consumer protection provisions, such as grade and labelling, are new. To assist business in meeting these requirements, CHC and the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) have created a draft Consumer Protection PCP.

FOOD LABELLING MODERNIZATION

In late Summer 2019, CFIA posted its Food Labeling Modernization (FLM) Regulation Amendments in Canada Gazette, Part 1. CHC supports updating Canada’s labelling requirements to align with international standards and with its major trading partners, as long as the economic and operational effects of these proposed changes on industry are considered.



Changes to Test Market Authorizations

The proposed amendments announced under the FLM include drastic changes to how Test Market Authorizations are approved by CFIA. And while CFIA committed to incorporating TMAs into the new SFCR, a number of TMAs were left out.

Traditionally, CFIA has accommodated TMAs by approving what industry has told them is necessary for the successful marketing of products and growth of the horticultural sector. The sector stakeholders (CHC, CPMA, DRC, Consumers' Association of Canada, provincial governments) are consulted on their support (or not) for a proposed Test Market application. Stakeholder support for a Test Market has always been sufficient evidence until now for CFIA to approve an application.

As communicated to CFIA, it is CHC's view that if a product has been successfully marketed to consumers, the government of Canada should not be an obstacle to the enhancement of economic growth that could arise from opportunities for packers in inter-provincial trade.

PROTECTING PUBLIC TRUST IN CANADIAN PRODUCE

In recent years, there have been a number of food safety incidents involving food-borne illnesses caused by fresh produce, particularly romaine lettuce grown in the United States. The fresh fruits and vegetables produced in Canada are some of the safest in the world thanks to the efforts taken by the industry along the value chain. However, the management of food safety incidents from imported product have heightened consumer fears, with potentially devastating impacts on our farmers.

In response, CHC has been adamant in its communications to the Public Health Agency of Canada and CFIA that they must, where appropriate, specify that the outbreak was not caused by Canadian products. CHC was pleased to see that the most recent romaine lettuce recall in November 2019 included this language in all public health and recall notices. This information was passed on to consumers through the media and at retail, and shows that CHC was effective and the government is addressing our concerns.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHC continues to advocate that the government implement only scientifically proven food safety measures, and consider the economic impact regulations have on farmers when drafting new requirements.

Early in 2020, CHC will be working with CFIA to develop a new process to replace the now-repealed test market authorizations.

Labour

Labour has a major impact on Canadian fruit and vegetable production. Without an adequate workforce to grow and harvest it, produce rots in the field, on the tree, or on the vine, resulting in waste and financial loss.



Canadian growers search for workers domestically first. When they are unable to find enough Canadian workers, they access the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). As challenges arise in the use of these programs, the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) works with various government departments, including Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), to remove or lessen obstacles.

HEARTBEAT - A CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL FARM WORKERS

On March 20th, CHC showcased its documentary to honour international farm workers at a premier held at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum's Learning Centre in Ottawa.



Michael Hicks, Heartbeat Director (right), and Murray Porteous, former CHC Labour Working Group Chair (second from left), pictured along with international farm workers on March 20, at the *Heartbeat* documentary launch screening. Held at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum's Learning Centre in Ottawa, the screening was attended by foreign dignitaries, government officials and leaders, farmers and workers in Canada's agriculture industry.

The screening of *'Heartbeat - A Celebration of International Farm Workers'*, was attended by foreign dignitaries, government officials and leaders, farmers and workers in Canada's agriculture industry.

The documentary, produced and directed by Michael Hicks of Hyperactive Productions, features interviews with workers and farm owners from British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In it, they tell their own stories of life on the farm.

Following the screening, the documentary was widely distributed to Members of Parliament, Senators and other government officials, and has been extremely well-received.

CHC regularly invites members and allied stakeholders to share this important film and spread its message to help Canadians understand where their food comes from and the important role international farm workers have played in Canadian agriculture for decades.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION REPORT

In Summer 2019, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC) – an allied stakeholder of CHC – released its latest Labour Market Information report titled *How Labour Challenges Will Shape the Future of Agriculture*. The report verified what many horticulture farmers know to be true: the chronic need for labour threatens the economic growth and viability of the sector.

In Canadian horticulture, 43% of workers are foreign, compared to 17% for the rest of agriculture. Furthermore, 61% of horticultural farmers hire foreign workers, compared to 35% of the rest of agriculture.

Fruit and vegetable farmers rely on seasonal labour for crop production and harvest, and on year-round labour in the case of packing facilities and greenhouses; without it, our farmers face incredible stress and financial loss.



STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC TRUST IN THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Public trust has increasingly been a factor to consider in advocating for Canada’s fruit and vegetable farmers. As we have seen, public misconceptions can impact regulatory decisions quite negatively.

CHC was thankful for the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food for having undertaken a study on improving public trust in agriculture and was pleased to provide comments to the Committee. Among other issues, our submission outlined the work our association, its members and stakeholders have done in spreading a positive message about international farm worker programs and the critical role they play in our food production. However, we also recommended ways in which the federal government can improve public trust as it relates to these programs, particularly, in standing behind and defending its integrity regime which employers are required to adhere to.

SERVICE DELIVERY WORKING GROUP

Throughout 2019, Beth Connery, CHC’s Labour Working Group Chair, worked with Economic and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

and other stakeholders across the agriculture sector to examine ways in which the administration of the SAWP and TFWP – Ag Stream programs can be improved. This group – known as the Service Delivery Working Group – made great strides in this past year. From examining a Recognized Employer Program to piloting an online LMIA portal, the group has been successful in addressing much-needed relief from the administrative burden placed on employers in the programs. The working group continues to be a forum for asking questions of the federal departments and obtaining clarification on program issues.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Canadian Horticultural Council is advocating for the federal government to provide critical resources to the administration of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and the Agriculture stream of the Temporary Foreign

Worker Program (TFWP), as well as support for the integrity of the programs. CHC will also work to ensure the government recognizes the importance and distinct purpose and operation of SAWP as a standalone program.

Trade and Marketing



As much as one might see fruit and vegetable production as something which takes place in a field or orchard, it is a business. And with an estimated impact of \$17.4 billion in real GDP, and supporting 249,000 jobs and \$9.8 billion in salaries and wages in 2017 alone, it's big business. In order to make sure that Canadian horticulture is profitable and competitive globally, CHC advocates for the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers that impact our industry, and for science-based regulatory cooperation to ensure our industry can access new markets.

NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS

2019 was a tumultuous year for trade across agricultural commodities. Increasingly, Canada's trading partners are introducing arguably protectionist or punitive policies. And as we saw with Canada's key agricultural exports this year, agri-food is often a target when countries have political or trade disputes.

For fruit and vegetable products, sanitary requirements continue to pose a non-tariff trade barrier. CHC regularly made use of opportunities to urge the Canadian government to work with trading partners to eliminate non-tariff trade barriers, particularly through harmonization of phytosanitary regulations and maximum residue limits.

The ability to export to, or import from, a new market is dependent on assessments of risks and recognition of plant protection systems by the trading countries' plant health regulators. As we saw with a number of commodities and trading partners in 2019, requirements that are not science-based or essential to security act as effective non-tariff trade barriers between countries and must be eliminated.

GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY EU MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMIT WORKING GROUP

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and its Market Access Secretariat assembled a stakeholder working group to strategize means in which to address trade implications of the European Union's approach to crop protection assessment and management, which has traditionally not been based on sound risk assessment or science. CHC continues to be an active member of this working group.

ADVOCATING FOR FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS

For CHC and its members, tackling the issue of financial protection remains a top priority. The lack of financial protection in the event that a buyer of produce becomes bankrupt or insolvent presents a tremendously high risk for Canadians selling fruits and vegetables. This high risk negatively impacts the sector's sustainability, decreases investments in innovation, threatens job opportunities and limits Canada's export potential. Implementation of a statutory deemed trust would significantly reduce supply chain disruptions and the vulnerability of small businesses in the produce industry. It would also improve trade relations with our largest and most important trading partner.

CHC was very active leading up to and during the 2019 federal election in advocating for a deemed trust. As a result, the Conservative Party and the NDP included a commitment to implementing a statutory deemed trust in their election platforms. In response to CHC's election survey, the Green Party also made the commitment. Now that we are in a minority government scenario, having the support of the three main national parties gives CHC a strong base on which to build our advocacy efforts during this Parliament.



WORKING WITH MARKET ACCESS SECRETARIAT (AAFC) AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

CHC continues to work with the federal government to explore potential emerging markets for Canada's fresh fruit and vegetable products. Throughout 2019, CHC contributed to a number of government consultations on new free trade agreements, particularly the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Mercosur (South American trade bloc).

CHC continues to participate in trade forums to engage government, identify appropriate contacts and gain market intelligence. CHC worked with the Market Access Secretariat at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to discuss how government and industry can share insights in order to best position Canada as a leader in agriculture exports around the world.

NAFTA/CUSMA

The new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) trade deal, which aims to modernize and broaden the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was first agreed to in Fall 2018, and revised in December 2019.

CHC was extremely active in the consultation and negotiation process before the agreement was signed. The U.S. and Mexico have ratified the agreement. In Canada, at the time of publication, the CUSMA implementation bill was before the House of Commons and is expected to pass in the coming weeks.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHC will continue to advocate for the elimination of non-tariff trade barriers and harmonized, science-based regulations with its trading partners. As part of its ongoing advocacy efforts, CHC will urge the government of Canada to ensure that new and renegotiated free trade agreements create the foundation for mutually recognizing food safety and SPS requirements,

and that agreements are based on sound science and address an appropriate risk-based approach to trade.

CHC will continue to advocate for financial protection for produce growers, particularly in our current minority government, where opposition parties who have supported our efforts will play a critical role.

Sector Support

There are over 120 different horticultural crops grown in Canada – from apples to zucchinis, from British Columbia to Newfoundland. The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) has established working groups that focus on specific issues pertaining to large-scale commodity industries, such as apples and fruit (including berries and grapes), potatoes, field vegetables, and the greenhouse vegetable sector.

CROP PROFILES

In partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s Pest Management Centre (PMC), CHC coordinates the review and updating of Crop Profiles. These are documents that provide a high-level overview of production and a more detailed look at pest management practices for a variety of agricultural crops in Canada. Each crop profile is updated every three years. In 2019, CHC worked with PMC and industry to update the following crop profiles:

- Cherry (sweet and sour)
- Peach
- Raspberry
- Strawberry
- Apple
- Cranberry
- Grape
- Pear

CHC APPLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meeting was held in July in Hamilton, Ontario. The event was hosted by the Ontario Apple Growers. The industry meeting was well attended by growers and representatives from across the country.

The working session included discussions on:

- market situations and trends,
- crop protection,
- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre activities,
- Public trust and farming with Farm and Food Care,
- CFIA regulations and related activities, and
- The Royal Winter Fair.





Greenhouse Vegetables



Greenhouse fruit and vegetables, primarily tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, and eggplants, are grown on over 866 farms across Canada. The greenhouse vegetable sector is on target for a seventh consecutive year of growth in 2019. The sector contributed over \$1.5 billion in farm cash receipts and exports worth over \$1.0 billion in 2018. Canada's greenhouse growers are deeply committed to growing safe, healthy, high-quality, and sustainable fresh vegetables that are available virtually year-round to consumers here and abroad.

NATIONAL PROTECTED AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

CHC and its Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group (GVWG) have continued to prioritize the national protected agriculture stewardship initiative. Work in 2019 has delivered draft national standards which became available for broad industry consultation in early 2020.

The initial focus of these standards is on operations that apply crop protection products via drip irrigation which is recirculated within the greenhouse. Greenhouse water management systems can be very complex, and while 90 percent of the Canadian greenhouse vegetable sector uses closed-loop recirculation systems, they can pose the greatest potential risk to the environment if they fail. The new national standards will provide even greater assurance that pesticides applied in protected agriculture production systems are stored, used, and disposed of responsibly. The CHC GVWG is committed to working together with several other grower associations, industry stakeholders, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to ensure the health and safety of people and the environment is protected.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE VIRUS

In the spring of 2019, CHC issued a call to action for an emerging plant pest: Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV). While the virus has no impact on human health, it is highly virulent for tomato and pepper crops. As the virus is spread mechanically (by contact), greenhouse operations, where plants are regularly handled are very susceptible to major injury. Industry responded quickly to the need to



fully implement all possible biosecurity measures such as protective clothing, robust hand washing, stringent controls of tours or visitors (e.g. consultants, ESDC inspectors, etc.), and other measures, both on farms and in pack-houses.



Implementation of the November 22, 2019 USDA-APHIS Federal Order has resulted in increased inspections of tomato and pepper fruit, and additional phytosanitary requirements for Canadian exports of seed, plants for planting, and fruit. Canadian greenhouse tomatoes and peppers destined for U.S. exports are valued at over \$707 million; seedlings/transplants, vegetable bedding plants, and ornamental peppers are worth an additional \$328 million. These values are only a fraction of the total risk equation to individual growers, the sector, and the Canadian economy.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, CUSMA AND THE US-MEXICO TOMATO SUSPENSION AGREEMENT

CHC closely monitored the re-negotiation of NAFTA and continues to follow progress on its ratification. A separate, but arguably equally important deal for Canadian greenhouse tomato growers, was the bilateral U.S. Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement which was also re-negotiated in 2019.

During the coldest Canadian winter months, imported greenhouse vegetables are primarily sourced from NAFTA partners: \$286 million from Mexico (86 percent), and \$35 million from the United States (10 percent). Any significant increase in the volume of tomato imports into Canada would seriously jeopardize our local markets and harm greenhouse farmers.

The new September 2019 agreement effectively re-suspends the U.S. antidumping duty investigation on fresh tomatoes from Mexico, resets a minimum price, and allows for increased inspections by the U.S. Department of Commerce on Mexican tomato producers and U.S. sellers.

REVIEW OF GREENHOUSE GRADE STANDARDS

In 2019, greenhouse representatives contributed to the review and modernization of the greenhouse tomato and cucumber grades *The Canadian Grade Compendium Volume 2 – Fresh Fruit or Vegetables* and the two historical Test Markets for greenhouse cucumbers have been incorporated by reference into the SFCR.

LOOKING AHEAD

To ensure a competitive and thriving Canadian greenhouse vegetable sector, CHC and its Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group (GVWG) will continue to inform government policy on national sector issues by addressing production costs and barriers, and maintaining and enhancing market access in both existing and emerging markets. This will be accomplished by:

- Establishing auditable national standards of the Protected Agriculture Stewardship initiative, developing a technical manual and guidance booklet, and delivering training and outreach.
- Continuing to ask the Canadian government for prompt action on ToBRFV by maintaining normal trade flows, establishing new testing protocols, regulatory tools and strategies founded on science-based decision-making, and developing additional industry supports and incentives to prevent the introduction and spread of this pest in Canada.
- Providing sector policy positions on the federal government's commitment for a 2022 review of the overall approach to pricing carbon by as well as a 2020 interim report for review by First Ministers.
- Prioritizing and supporting market access development for greenhouse vegetables.

Potato



The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) is supported by the membership of eleven provincial potato grower organizations from eight provinces. This year, the fresh potato growers from Saskatchewan joined as a new member organization in the CPC. Three CPC meetings were held this year (Halifax, Quebec City, Ottawa). The CPC undertook the following activities in 2019 in support of Canada's potato sector.

POLICY AND REGULATIONS

The CPC, through collaborative Working Groups provided input to the CFIA Potato and Forestry Section (Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate) to update regulatory policy related to unregistered potato varieties, garden varieties and true potato seed.

grower organizations, the CFIA and USDA-APHIS to discuss issues impacting bilateral trade. Afterwards, the Potato Association of America Certification Section met with representation from the seventeen US state seed certification agencies to discuss seed potato certification standards.

PMRA RE-EVALUATION

During the past year, *Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions* were issued by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) that would negatively impact on the potato sector in Canada. The CPC submitted consultation responses to the proposed discontinuation of chlorpyrifos including the critical use for wireworm control in BC and the proposed discontinuation of thiophanate-methyl potato seed piece treatment. PMRA re-issued a proposed decision for mancozeb discontinuing use on potatoes that would have major impact on the management of resistant population of the late blight pathogen.

TRADE, MARKET ACCESS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Potatoes Canada (PE, NB, AB) continued export market development for seed and fresh potatoes through generous cost-shared support provided by the AAFC Market Development Program that runs through to March 31, 2021. Market access requirements were updated and sector representatives attended international trade show events to promote Canadian potatoes.

The collaboration of CPC and the CFIA resulted in agreement with US counterparts to amend some parts of the bilateral guidelines for potato cyst nematode testing requirements for the export of seed potatoes between Canada and the US.

The CPC hosted the Canada-US Potato Committee Meeting in Ottawa in December, bringing together Canadian and US potato





POTATO BREEDING MODERNIZATION

The CPC was pleased with AAFC efforts to modernize the potato breeding program in Canada following the completion of an external review. Significant changes include separation of breeding and germplasm enhancement functions, addition of an industry liaison/coordinator, and working toward improving industry engagement on program priorities and initiation of a process to identify alternative commercialization opportunities.

POTATO RESEARCH

There has been progress in seven potato projects (Colorado potato beetle, late blight, necrotic viruses, variety evaluation, smart farming, wireworm) with value of \$7.6 million continued in the second crop year, and this progress has been reported in research progress reports posted on the CHC website. The Canadian Potato Early Dying Network project was approved for funding under the AgriScience Program. Full details will be released upon the Minister's official announcement (date TBD).

Potato growers in the four provinces with French fry processing capacity (PE, NB, MB, AB) financially support the Alliance for Potato Research and Education (APRE) along with US grower counterparts and the four major processing companies. APRE funds go directly to support university clinical research in potato nutrition, cardiometabolic health, healthy dietary patterns and healthy lifestyles. Each year, \$1 million (USD) in research studies are funded. To date, six of 30 funded studies have been completed and published in peer reviewed journals.



LOOKING AHEAD

The CPC looks forward to working with our research stakeholders (AAFC, funding organizations and scientists) as work progresses on Cluster 3 projects in the areas of pest management, precision agriculture and variety evaluation. The CPC Research Working Group will continue development of a Knowledge Transfer plan to communicate results of Cluster 3 potato research projects.

To alleviate a continuing trade irritant, the CPC will explore options to gain US stakeholder acceptance of science-based requirements for potato cyst nematode testing of seed potatoes for trade between Canada and the U.S.

The CPC will cooperate with the CFIA for a comprehensive review to update Part II (Seed Potatoes) of the *Seed Regulations* so that they better provide regulation of the modern seed potato certification system.

The publication of PMRA Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions will be monitored to identify those decisions that will negatively impact the potato sector and require a CPC response. Final Decisions issued will be considered in the context of future pest management in potatoes.

Research



The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) supports the Canadian fruit and vegetable sector in part by managing funding applications and subsequent research projects that address the sector's top priorities.

CANADIAN AGRISCIENCE CLUSTER FOR HORTICULTURE 3

With an investment of nearly \$18 million (\$11 million by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and \$7 million by industry), Cluster 3 brings expertise from academia, industry and government together on 15 projects across five commodity groups:

APPLE 2 projects \$1.3 million	BERRY 1 project \$1.3 million	GREENHOUSE 3 projects \$1.35 million	POTATO 7 projects \$7.6 million	VEGETABLE 2 projects \$4.2 million
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The balance of funds is allocated to CHC-led activities: science coordination, knowledge transfer and administration.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS APPROVED FOR CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The Canadian Potato Early Dying Network project was approved for funding under the AgriScience Program. Full details will be released upon the Minister's official announcement (date TBD).



PROGRESS TO DATE

The second field season and project year has seen successes for Cluster 3 participants. Research is progressing well and early outcomes show promise of positive results and potential tools for industry.

2019 saw a revamping of the Current Projects page of the CHC website, with more knowledge transfer to come, including:

- Semi-Annual Updates to Industry
- Features in *Fresh Thinking* Magazine
- Social media updates
- Webinars
- Grower field days and farm visits



The Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture 3 is generously funded in cooperation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriScience Program (a Canadian Agricultural Partnership initiative), the Canadian Horticultural Council and industry contributors.



**Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada**

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Agroalimentaire Canada**



Outreach and Communication

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC)'s communications service strives to keep members informed of the organization's activities and important issues in Canadian horticulture. In addition, communications aim to enhance CHC's brand and support advocacy efforts by clearly articulating CHC's position on priority issues using a range of tools and strategic initiatives.

ELECTION ADVOCACY

On October 21, 2019, Canadians elected a new federal government. Leading up to the election, CHC prepared many communications resources to inform policy makers and equip members and growers with the tools they needed to make their voices heard. These tools included fact sheets, graphics and policy documents on key topics, as well as guides on writing letters to newspaper editors, writing letters to political candidates, and securing and preparing for meetings with candidates. We also produced social media 'shareables' that our members and growers could post on social media.



Equipping members and growers was essential in order to complement the advocacy efforts being undertaken by CHC staff and working groups. Despite our sector's strong contribution to Canada's economy—\$17.4B in real GDP and 249,000 jobs in 2017 (2019 RIAS Report)—farmers continue to face regulatory burdens that threaten the growth and viability of our industry. These regulatory burdens on Canada's fruit and vegetable farmers represent a significant concern to the modernization of our sector. CHC's advocacy efforts and the tools we prepared as part of these efforts helped to ensure that farmers' voices were heard by government officials, and would be understood and acted upon in all government decisions that impact them.

ADVOCACY EVENTS ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Following the 2019 federal election, CHC once again partnered with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) for our annual Farm to Plate advocacy event on Parliament Hill on February 25, 2020. The event was an important opportunity to meet with government officials and discuss our concerns, priorities, and the changes we hope to see in our sector.



While there were many areas of focus we discussed with those in attendance, crop protection, financial protection for produce sellers and sustainability (including food policy, food waste, public trust, and plastics), topped the list. Other topics that were top of mind and brought to the attention of government officials included:

- regulatory modernization and consultation,
- innovation and infrastructure,
- data strategy,
- business risk management,
- market access,
- labour, and
- taxation

Farm to Plate will be followed later this year by our annual Fall Harvest event, taking place from November 2-4, 2020, when we will once again gather in Ottawa to engage Canada's elected officials in support of our industry.

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH TO GOVERNMENT

Throughout 2019, we were successful in securing over 30 formal meetings with policy- and decision-makers and other government officials to advocate on behalf of growers, sent nine letters to federal Ministers and senior government officials, made 11 formal submissions to Government of Canada consultations, and gave two submissions to House of Commons Standing Committees on the perception of public trust in the Canadian agricultural sector and pre-Budget 2020 consultations.



HEARTBEAT: A CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL FARM WORKERS

Early 2019 saw the launch of CHC's documentary, *Heartbeat: A celebration of international farm workers*. Through 2019, the Heartbeat documentary reached nearly 2 million people and helped to promote a more balanced understanding of labour in horticulture, including the mutual benefit that international worker programs provide to growers in Canada and the workers who come from overseas. While a majority of *Heartbeat's* audience has been online through social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, CHC also hosted a public screening of *Heartbeat* on October 17, 2019, as part of the One World Arts Film Festival, which has been operating for 30 years in the Ottawa area. The screening was followed by a Q&A panel with Michael Hicks, the director of *Heartbeat*, and Beth Connery, the Chair of CHC's Labour working group.

FRESH THINKING MAGAZINE

Fresh Thinking is CHC's free bilingual print publication. It is published twice a year and features high-level industry perspectives and useful tips for growers. Five thousand copies of each issue are distributed across Canada, the U.S. and internationally. The magazine even generates a small amount of revenue for CHC. Each issue of Fresh Thinking is themed to strategic priorities.

Our Spring 2019 issue focused on the science and research of food safety, education, and innovation—all issues that support a theme of competitiveness. And our Fall 2019 issue focused on sustainability under the umbrella of the United Nation's sustainability goals, and explored the sustainability efforts being taken by policymakers and leaders at the national and international levels, the challenge of balancing government regulation, consumer expectations and financial pressures, the latest research into food loss and waste, and new innovations in recycling.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

CHC issued 53 Member Notes in both official languages in 2019 that were opened by tens of thousands of times by different recipients from our member organizations. Additionally, we also distributed monthly updates in the form of our HortShorts newsletter. Furthermore, we regularly created opportunities for two-way communication with our members through surveys and by requesting input on various policy initiatives and advocacy with government officials. We'd like to send a very special thank you to our members who provided their input and insight on important issues, and who shared our communications with growers, helping them remain informed about developments in our sector.



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