

Report from the
FOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE
CANADAGAP

To the 89th Annual General Meeting of the
CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL
Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
March 11, 2011

To the President and Members of the
Canadian Horticultural Council

The work continues and this has been a year where significant steps have been taken to bring this complex On-Farm Food Safety program for horticultural commodities to an international level.

Our program has now been benchmarked as an equivalent program to the international Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) accreditation. This a very significant achievement for our members who are in the international market as exporters, but also for our Canadian retailers who require an international level of accreditation from all their suppliers. This benchmarking has and will continue to require modifications to our program, however, we are well positioned to accommodate these and will continue to meet this crucial level of program credibility and recognition.

Our program projections for financial performance are being met and through diligent, and I believe, very competent management by our staff, the financial implications for this program are proving to be manageable and kept to a minimum.

Membership is slightly behind some forecasts, however, with the changing international market place, and recent events in the US, we are confident we will still be serving the forecasted number of CHC members over time.

A particularly interesting activity this past year has been the study of a possible merging of the CHC program with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) food safety program. A project was carried out which looked at the pros and cons and implications of such an endeavor. We at CHC have always been quite conscious of the liability advantages of spinning off the program at arms length from CHC . This study looks at a direction which would bring us down that road. A resolution and report of this work is available and I encourage everyone to take a look at what is being discussed and participate in the process of deciding where we want to go.

In closing, I again want to extend my warmest thanks to the team at CHC national office for their continuing excellent cooperation and support, and of course Heather and her team for guiding us along the road with incredible competence dedication. To all the volunteers in our Management and Technical Advisory Committees .. THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,



Paul LeBlanc
Chair, Food Safety Committee