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CHC President Keith Kuhl attends Budget 2014

CHC President, Keith Kuhl, received an invitation to attend the tabling of Budget 2014 in the House of Commons on February 11, 2014. The invitation included participation in a pre-budget reception with Ministers and members of caucus.



"On February 12, I sat in the gallery of the House of Commons as Finance Minister Flaherty delivered the 2014 budget. The winner is the automotive sector as the budget allocated \$500 million into the Automotive Innovation Fund over the next two years. While we applaud the efforts of government in striving towards balanced budgets we must continue to seek ways to keep Canadian agriculture competitive with the many other countries that are exporting into our markets," noted Kuhl.

Federal government funds \$7 million Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture

On February 20, 2014 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz attended the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Niagara Falls and announced the new research cluster led by the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC).

"Our government remains focused on the economy and on creating opportunities for Canadian farmers and businesses to grow and prosper," said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "A strong partnership between government, industry and academia will help ensure continued innovation and commercialization within Canada's vibrant and diverse horticulture sector."

The \$7 million investment, being made under the AgriInnovation Program, will support industry experts, scientists and academics conducting research focused on reducing crop input costs while improving marketable yield and margins for apple and potato growers.



CHC is also receiving over \$450,000 via the AgriMarketing Program for two additional projects that will benefit the apple and potato industries. One project will help promote Canada's high-quality apple varieties at international trade shows and increase export potential in new and emerging world markets. The second project will allow the CHC to work on issues affecting market access for potato farmers and to increase global awareness of Canadian potatoes.

"Canada's horticulture sector is a significant contributor to our communities, the Canadian economy and the health and wellness of Canadians," said CHC President Keith Kuhl. "The Agri-Science Cluster 2 for Horticulture builds on the successes of Cluster 1 and further enhances a culture of innovation for Canada's horticulture industry, which ultimately benefits all Canadians."



CropLife president, former MP Ted Menzies to address 2014 AGM

Former Conservative Member of Parliament Ted Menzies, recently appointed as president of CropLife Canada, will be the headline speaker at CHC's 2014 Annual General Meeting in Kelowna. Mr. Menzies is the guest speaker during the banquet which is scheduled for the evening of March 5. First elected to represent the Alberta Constituency of Macleod in 2004, Menzies held several federal positions including Federal Minister of State for Finance and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Prior to entering federal politics Menzies was involved in several farm organizations, including the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, Grain Growers of Canada and Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Newly appointed U.S. Agricultural Minister-Counselor meets Canadian representatives in Ottawa

M. Kathryn Ting, newly appointed Agricultural Minister-Counselor of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, recently met with representatives from the CHC, CPMA and the DRC at the United States Embassy in Ottawa. Participants described the meeting as an "opportunity to ensure the continuance of a good relationship with the USDA and provide a brief description of our organizations." The representatives also highlighted their continuing efforts to ensure greater cooperation on regulatory issues, including sanitary/phytosanitary measures and financial risk mitigation.

Should bee death reversals lead to second thoughts on neonics bans?

In an online article posted February 5, Forbes.com contributor Jon Entine suggests that U.S. and Canadian regulatory authorities might want to reconsider proposed bans on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, which are suspected culprits in the collapse of North American honeybee populations over the last decade. The European Commission imposed a two-year moratorium on use of neonics in 2013. Entine points to recent studies showing that honeybee colony numbers have been stable for years while neonics usage actually increased. Read the whole story at <http://tiny.cc/beesandneonics>

Status Update Webinar – RCC Crop Protection Products Initiative

An RCC Crop Protection Products Initiative webinar was presented on January 16, 2014 and provided an overview of the initiative, updates on progress to date and ongoing alignment work and laid out the way forward

The initial 29-item RCC Action Plan was announced in December 2011 and is now entering its final months. PCO/OIRA received stakeholder submissions from 160 different organizations during recent Canada Gazette and Federal Register consultations, and the Canadian and US governments are now committed to another phase of work based on all the input received. Both countries will develop the outline of a forward plan for regulatory cooperation by Spring 2014, building on progress-to-date and lessons learned through the implementation of the initial Action Plan. Both governments plan to engage stakeholders in the development of the next phase of work.

The full presentation and an archive of live webinar are available online at <http://tiny.cc/rccwebinar1>

2014 SAWP Employment Contracts

Employment and Social Development Canada has posted the 2014 SAWP Employment Contracts for the Temporary Foreign Worker Program online at <http://tiny.cc/sawp2014>

Crop and Plant Protection

PMRA issues Re-evaluation Note REV2013-15, Re-evaluation Update for Neonicotinoid Insecticides

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is working cooperatively with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) who are also re-evaluating clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam as part of their registration review programs.

Recently, the PMRA collaborated with EPA, CDPR and other stakeholders to develop a pollinator risk assessment framework. To determine data requirements for the re-evaluations in Canada, and these will be used to evaluate potential effects of neonicotinoids on pollinators. In addition to this pollinator risk assessment, PMRA will assess the value of the neonicotinoids. Timelines for these reviews are provided in this document: <http://tiny.cc/REV2013-15>

PMRA Special Review Announcement and Impact on the Grower Requested Own Use Import Program

The *Pest Control Products Act* requires the PMRA to initiate a special review of a registered pest control product when there are reasonable grounds to believe that its health or environmental risks are unacceptable, or when another member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) prohibits all uses of an active ingredient for health or environmental reasons.

The PMRA will initiate special reviews related to registered pest control products containing the active ingredients included in Appendix I of *REV2013-06 Special Review Initiation of 23 Active Ingredients* (<http://tiny.cc/23ingredients>) based on OECD country prohibition. Included on this list are three (3) active ingredients that are approved products under the Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) program. As active ingredients under Special Review are not eligible for inclusion on the GROU List of Approved Products, **Princep Nine-T Herbicide** (PCP# 16370; simazine), **Velpar L Herbicide** (PCP# 18197;

hexazinone) and **Aatrex Liquid 480** (PCP# 18450; atrazine) will no longer be eligible for import under the GROU program.

Status of Pest Management Centre projects as of December 31, 2013

The [Pest Management Centre](#)'s project statuses for December 31, 2013 are available as noted below:

The [Minor Use Pesticides Program](#) Project Status by Crop, Submissions and Registrations reports from December 16, 2013.

The [Pesticide Risk Reduction Program](#)'s Biopesticide Project Status by Crop report from December 5, 2013.

To receive PMC updates directly, you can subscribe to email alerts at <http://tiny.cc/pmcalerts>.

Commodity Corner

Apple

National Apple Promotion and Research Agency Steering Committee

As a result of the recommendations of the apple benchmarking study of 2012, which included the need for a national marketing and industry development/research body, the National Apple Promotion & Research Agency Steering Committee was formed. The steering committee's mandate is to 1) develop an Action Plan towards the establishment of a National Promotion & Research agency for the Canadian apple industry; 2) facilitate and promote discussions on the subject among industry stakeholders; 3) engage key national and provincial industry associations that could contribute to or may be impacted by this initiative, and 4) develop advice and recommendations on the feasibility of this initiative to be taken to the CHC Apple and Fruit Committee. The steering committee is composed of growers, marketers and other interested industry representatives. A face to face meeting of the steering committee was held in Ottawa on January 7, 2014. The steering committee reviewed a draft proposal document and will be working on further revisions and communication pieces in the coming months.

Potato

Shipments of Seed Potatoes to the United States

Effective January 21, 2014, shipments of seed potato tubers destined for the United States will be inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) upon request prior to export. This is an interim measure to facilitate export of the 2013 seed potato crop to the U.S.

The CFIA has been working with stakeholders to expand the Seed Potato Tuber Quality Management Program (SPTQMP) to allow farmers or their representatives to perform grade and quality inspections for seed potato tubers shipped domestically and to the U.S. The CFIA will continue to work with industry and its U.S. counterparts towards full implementation of the SPTQMP. However, at this time, inspection of shipments of seed potato tubers destined for the U.S. will be carried out by the CFIA at the request of the producer. The proposed changes to the SPTQMP for domestic shipments of seed potato tubers remain unchanged.

Effective immediately, Canadian producers and exporters of seed potatoes to the U.S. are required to contact their local CFIA office at their earliest convenience to schedule the inspections. The applicable fees for CFIA seed potato inspections will remain the same (\$1.20 per tonne) for inspections conducted during regular working hours. Industry is asked to provide as much advance notice as is possible should after-hours inspection be required. Please note that additional fees will be applied to cover the costs of the after-hours inspection.

Food Safety

CanadaGAP members elect new Board of Directors

At the first Annual General Meeting of members, CanadaGAP program participants elected a new Board of Directors. The AGM was held by webinar and teleconference on February 10, 2014:

Jack Bates (Tecarte Farms); Hugh Bowman (Misionero Vegetables); Avia Eek (Eek Farms); Keith Kuhl (Peak of the Market); Stephanie Lariviere (Erie James Ltd.); Paul Leblanc (Apple Growers of New Brunswick); Cathy McKay (Nature's Bounty) and Dean Thomson (Thomson Orchards).

Board members will serve a two-year term from 2014-2016. Biographies of the new directors are available at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/about-us/governance/>. Please direct any questions to info@canadagap.ca

Appointments to the CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee for 2013-2015 have been made by the CanAgPlus Board of Directors

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee was established in November 2012, and evolved from the former On-Farm Food Safety Technical Working group of the Canadian Horticultural Council, the organization responsible for the initial development of CanadaGAP. The Committee meets annually to provide input, advice and recommendations on the technical components of

the CanadaGAP Program. The members of the 2013-2015 Committee are:

Area of Expertise	Appointee	Organization
Potatoes	Terence Hochstein	Potato Growers of Alberta
Field-Grown Vegetables	Alexandre Notaro	Les Ferme E. Notaro fils inc.
Greenhouse	Stephanie Larivière	Erie James Ltd./Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
Tree and Vine Fruit	Mariana Black	BC Tree Fruits Cooperative
Small Fruit	Mary Shabatura	Shabatura Produce/Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Multi-commodity expertise; program development	Joanne Driscoll	PEI Horticultural Association
Program implementation	Chris Burr	BC Fresh
Other relevant expertise (producer, involved with implementation, familiar with program materials, etc.)	Stéphanie Levasseur	Au Cœur de la pomme
Chair	Grant Hackman	Peak of the Market

In addition to the voting members and the chair, ex officio membership is provided to representatives from CanadaGAP Certification Bodies. For more information on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee visit the CanadaGAP website at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/about-us/governance/>

Third Canadian Food Summit 2014: From Strategy to Action

The Conference Board of Canada's 3rd Canadian Food Summit 2014: From Strategy to Action is taking place March 18-19, 2014 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. As a member of the Canadian Horticultural Council, you are able to attend the Summit at the reduced rate of \$695 – use Rebate Code PRM23 when registering to receive the rate.

Join us for the launch of the Canadian Food Strategy as the plans for its implementation by sector stakeholder groups are unveiled. For each of its five elements (industry prosperity, healthy food, food safety, household food security, and environmental sustainability), the completed Strategy sets out: goals; outcomes; actions and initiatives; leads; and metrics. Each delegate will receive a copy of the Strategy and is invited to discuss implementation plans in subsequent Summit sessions. To view the full agenda and session details, visit the Summit webpage.

2014 AGM in Kelowna is Almost Here!

The 2014 Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting, centered around the theme of "Growing a Healthy Organization," will soon be upon us. Your proud hosts in Kelowna, BC are preparing a first-class event, and are looking forward to welcoming you! For information or registration details please contact Linda Vinokuroff at lvinofuroff@hortcouncil.ca or visit the AGM website at <http://tiny.cc/chcagm2014>.

Mark Your Calendar...

MARCH	3-4	Canadian Potato Council Meeting, Kelowna, BC
	4-6	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting. Kelowna, BC http://tiny.cc/chcagm2014
	10-12	Fourth International Blueberry Organization (IBO) World Summit, Guadalajara, Mexico, http://tiny.cc/IBO4
	18-19	Conference Board of Canada's Centre for Food in Canada (CFIC) 3rd Canadian Food Summit 2014: From Strategy to Action at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. For further details visit the Summit website: http://tiny.cc/foodsummit3
	25-27	Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshops, The Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, Gatineau, Québec. For information, please contact Shirley Archambault at the (AAFC) Pest Management Centre at Shirley.Archambault@AGR.GC.CA

To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to question@hortcouncil.ca