

# HORTSHORTS

June 2016



Canadian Horticultural Council | Conseil canadien de l'horticulture

The voice of Canadian horticulture

hortcouncil.ca



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

### Headlines

- Agriculture Committee hearings on PACA
- CHC Labour Committee fact sheet on SAWP
- CHC presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on Bee Health
- GROU product nominations open
- Industry consultation on Growing Forward 3
- Revised guidelines for resolving SR&ED concerns

### Labour

### Crop Protection

### Food Safety

### Commodity Corner

### Question of the Month

### Mark Your Calendar

**Canada's SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM**  
**10 Myths vs Reality**

For the past 50 years, Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) has been an excellent example of how good policy works. Through a partnership between Canada and Mexico, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean, Canadian fruits and vegetables are picked and able to be brought to market. What's more, men and women from these nations are given a chance to earn an income which gives their families back home opportunities that they might not otherwise have. **It truly is a win-win.**

Despite this, there are some myths about the program. Here are 10 myths about the SAWP and the reality that exists.

- MYTH:** Workers are being denied health care.  
**REALITY:** In every province, workers are provided with the same public health care that every Canadian enjoys through their provincial health care system.
- MYTH:** Workers are kept in sub-standard housing.  
**REALITY:** In every province, housing is inspected and must meet or exceed provincial guidelines or the employer will not.
- MYTH:** Workers are subject to abuse with no opportunity for complaint.  
**REALITY:** The federal government maintains an Integrity Office that is accessible to every worker, employer and the general public. Reports can be made anonymously via the tip line and will result in investigations. If an employer is found to be guilty of abuse of workers, they can be fined, imprisoned or excluded from hiring foreign workers.
- MYTH:** Employees are denied the opportunity to receive Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.  
**REALITY:** An employee may receive EI benefits while they are living in Canada. Under the previous government, a change was made which no longer allowed EI benefits to be paid to a worker once they had return to their own country.

## HEADLINES

### Agriculture Standing Committee concludes hearings on Canada's Preferential Status under the United States Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

On June 1, 2016 the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food concluded their study on Canada's Preferential Status under the United States Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).

Over the course of the three sessions, industry witnesses spoke to the critical need for a PACA-like tool in Canada that will provide comparable protections for growers and sellers of fresh fruits and vegetables as those provided by the US PACA.

Industry presenters included CHC EVP Anne Fowlie, George Gilvesy (Chair, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers), Ron Lemaire (President, CPMA), Jocelyn St-Denis (Executive Director, Finance and Business Strategies, Vegpro International Inc.), Jason Verkaik (Chair, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers')

Association), Fred Webber (President and Chief Executive Officer, Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation) and Ronald Cuming, Professor, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan.

Officials from AAFC and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada also participated in the hearings.

At the conclusion of the final session, committee members unanimously adopted a motion to present a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development “at the earliest possible convenience to suggest a model to create legislation similar to the model presented by Mr. Cuming”.

“I believe the hearings and the proposed motion are extremely positive and am hopeful that we will see a resolution to the issue in this calendar year” noted Fowlie. The transcript of the final hearing is available at: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/AGRI/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=8896614>

## **CHC Labour Committee Executive releases fact sheet on SAWP:**

### ***“10 Myths vs Reality”***

In an effort to address some of the myths and misconceptions that are being presented about the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), the CHC Labour Committee Executive has released a fact sheet highlighting 10 myths vs the actual realities of the program. The goal is for CHC members to use and share the fact sheet to help educate Canadians and their workers on the program. [Read the fact sheet](#)

## **CHC presents on bee health to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food**

On May 30, CHC’s Executive Vice-President, Anne Fowlie, presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food on the subject of bee health monitoring. Ms. Fowlie spoke on how the horticulture sector is an exemplary model of successful coexistence between farmers, production and a robust pollinator population, and that bee populations in Canada have, in fact, been experiencing a steady increase. [Read presentation.](#)

## **Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) product nominations now open**

The GROU program allows Canadian producers to import pesticides from the U.S. provided they are deemed equivalent to those that are on the Canadian market. This is an important price discipline tool that has enabled many producers to access more economically priced inputs from the U.S. Please click [here](#) for a link to products that have been proposed in previous years that were not found to be eligible and the reason why, and [here](#) for a list of current products.

In response to needing more time for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to process submitted products, the call for nominations is being held earlier this year. For more information about the GROU program, or to submit a product for consideration, please contact CFA’s [Drew Black](#).

## **Agricultural Policy Framework consultations with industry taking place**

Federal, provincial and territorial governments are currently working together to develop the next agricultural policy framework to be launched on April 1, 2018. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is seeking

feedback to better understand what parts of the current framework Growing Forward 2 are working well and what challenges could be addressed in the next framework. Feedback may be shared on-line [here](#). With respect to other consultations and reviews, the attached document outlines some key consultation initiatives that are currently underway within the Government of Canada. In addition, the Government of Canada has a [website](#) which lists on-going consultation activities across the entire federal government: [More information](#)

## **Revised Guidelines for resolving claimants' Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) concerns**

For the purpose of better tracking issues for training and policy clarification; and making the delivery of administrative reviews more consistent across Canada the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has implemented [Form RC532, Request for Administrative Review](#). Businesses will use this form to send a request for an administrative review (which replaces the administrative second review) to the National SR&ED Administrative Review Intake Centre. The CRA has also updated the [Guidelines for Resolving Claimants' SR&ED Concerns](#) with new procedures. For information about the SR&ED Program's updated review process, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/sred](http://www.cra.gc.ca/sred)

## **LABOUR**

### **Employment Insurance Service Quality Review**

The Government of Canada is taking action to improve services for Canadians. They have recently launched the Employment Insurance Service Quality Review, a nationwide consultation process with key stakeholders and the public to seek their input on ways to improve services to Employment Insurance (EI) claimants. Please fill out their [online survey](#). Your feedback will be used to develop recommendations for Ministers to consider in shaping future service delivery improvements that will best meet the expectations of Canadians.

More information on this consultation and a link to the online survey is available [here](#).

## **CROP PROTECTION**

### **Conditional pesticide registrations no longer possible**

As of June 1, Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will no longer grant conditional registrations, where the government approved the use of a pesticide but asked an agricultural company for additional information to support the registration. This decision is further to the proposal to do so as communicated in the 19 January 2016 document [NOI2016-01 Notice of Intent Regarding Conditional Registrations under the Pest Control Products Regulations](#). [Read more](#)

## Pest Management Centre Project Statuses – June 2016

The [Minor Use Pesticides Program](#) Project Status by Crop, Submissions and Registrations reports generated on June 2, 2016. The [Pesticide Risk Reduction Program](#)'s Biopesticide Project Status by Crop report from June 6, 2016. [See the project statuses](#)

## FOOD SAFETY

### Canadian Nominated to Protect World Plant Health

Canada's leadership in international plant protection receives recognition with the election of Marie-Claude Forest, a leading expert on international phytosanitary standards at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to the Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The CPM is the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The seven-member Bureau provides guidance to the CPM on the strategic direction, financial and operational management of its activities.

[Read more](#)

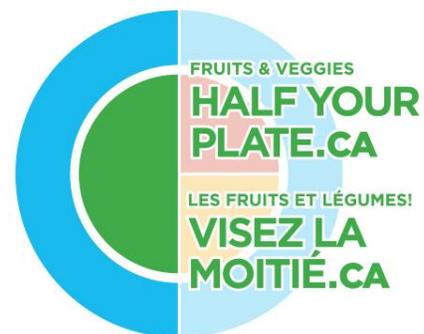
### Notice to Industry - Amendments to the Weed Seeds Order

Amendments to the Weed Seeds Order (WSO) were published today in the Canada Gazette, Part II and come into force on November 1, 2016. [Read more](#)

## COMMODITY CORNER

### Chef Michael Smith promotes potatoes

PEI native, Chef Michael Smith is a known lover of all Canadian produce, but on May 26, he was giving some extra attention to one of his home provinces top horticultural exports: potatoes. Smith has starred in 10 videos for the Half Your Plate campaign. In two videos he shows recipes for [Red & Yellow Potato Hash](#) and [The Ultimate Stuffed Potato](#). The two potato-related videos are among a series of 10 videos produced for the Half Your Plate campaign to promote eating more fruits and vegetables by filling half your plate with these food items. Chef Michael Smith is the ambassador and spokesperson for the campaign.



## State-of-the art greenhouse opens at Vineland

The largest, most modern pre-commercial horticultural research greenhouse in North America made its official debut on June 3. The 40,000 square foot facility at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre will help advance greenhouse horticulture through breeding, improved plant performance, pest and disease management, the new facility will also function as a testing ground for the development of robotics and automation, technologies vital to the future of the greenhouse industry. [Read more](#)



## Save the Date! CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meeting

July 26 & 27, 2016 – Moncton, NB

Delta Beausejour Hotel

- July 26 – Apple Industry Meeting followed by a group dinner
- July 27 – Orchard Tour and Dinner

**More details to follow! Hope you can join us in New Brunswick!**

Please make your hotel reservations before **June 27, 2016** to secure the special rate of \$149 (Group: Canadian Horticultural Council)  
1-844-496-8551 or directly (506) 854-4344  
[Delta Beausejour Online Reservations](#)



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Question of the month helps CHC and our members get a better understanding of your opinions on issues affecting fruit and vegetable production in Canada. Please click on the question below.

[What sources do you consult to get current information on new pesticides; and/ or disease, pest and weed management information?](#)

Question  
of the month



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>17 – 19</b>	<a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> Annual Greenhouse Competition</a> Leamington, ON
	<b>20 – 23</b>	<a href="#">United Fresh</a> Chicago, Ill
	<b>23 – 24</b>	<a href="#">International Federation for Produce Standards</a> Chicago, Ill
<b>JULY</b>	<b>6 – 7</b>	<a href="#">CHC Board of Directors Summer Meeting and Tour</a> Lower Mainland, BC
	<b>10 – 12</b>	<a href="#">Canadian Seed Trade Association Annual Meeting</a> Vancouver, BC
	<b>15</b>	<a href="#">Canadian Potato Council Meeting</a> Winnipeg, Manitoba
	<b>26 – 27</b>	<a href="#">CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meetings</a> Moncton, NB
	<b>18 – 20</b>	<a href="#">Quebec Produce Marketing Association Annual Convention</a> Montreal, QC
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>13 – 14</b>	<a href="#">Canada's Outdoor Farm Show</a> Woodstock, ON
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>5 – 6</b>	<a href="#">Canadian Greenhouse Conference</a> Niagara Falls, ON
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>14 – 16</b>	<a href="#">Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Conference and Expo</a> Orlando, FL
	<b>21 – 23</b>	<a href="#">50th Annual Alberta Potato Conference and Trade Show</a> Banff, AB
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>31 -</b>	<a href="#">North American Plant Protection Organization Annual Meeting</a>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>	Montreal, QC
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>4 – 13</b>	<a href="#">Royal Agricultural Winter Fair</a> Toronto, ON
	<b>21 – 23</b>	<a href="#">CHC/CPMA Fall Harvest Event</a> Ottawa, ON

*To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to [question@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:question@hortcouncil.ca)*