

Canadian Horticultural Council elects new Board of Directors

Québec City, Québec – On March 12, 2015 members of the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) chose their Board of Directors for 2015 – 2016 during their 93rd Annual General Meeting held from March 10 – 12 in Québec City. The Board's role is to guide the Council in developing and executing CHC's mandate of being a strong and active presence in the nation's capital on behalf of the horticultural sector by bringing issues to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and to other federal and provincial ministers and departments, as directed by membership.

The Board is comprised of representatives from across Canada, with two being chosen from each of the five regions: British Columbia, Prairies, Ontario, Québec and the Maritimes and Newfoundland and Labrador. The 2015-2016 Canadian Horticultural Council Board of Directors are:

British Columbia	Bar Hayre – Abbotsford, BC Fred Steele – Kelowna, BC
Prairies	Ernie Van Boom – Sturgeon, Manitoba Keith Kuhl – Winkler, Manitoba (President)
Ontario	Adrian Huisman – St. Catherines, Ontario Brian Gilroy – Meaford, Ontario
Quebec	Claude Laniel – Longueuil, Québec Louis Gauthier, St-Laurent d'Orléans, Québec
Maritimes	Alvin Keenan, Souris, PEI (Vice-President) Peter Swetnam, Centreville, Nova Scotia

Keith Kuhl has been re-elected for an unprecedented third term as CHC President. Previously a CHC President only served for one year, but in 2012 the Bylaws were changed to allow Presidents to serve for up to three years allowing for greater continuity and the ability for the President to build and nurture relationships with key partners. "I'm very pleased to have been re-elected as President of CHC," said Keith Kuhl. "With the expertise and commitment of this Board I feel confident that CHC will be able to make a real impact on key issues affecting Canada's fruit and vegetable growers. I look forward to working with them, our members and government on giving Canada's horticulture sector even greater value to Canada's economy and Canadians' health."

All members of the Board members elected this year are continuing from last year, with the exception of Louis Gauthier, who replaced Jacques Demers of Saint-Nicholas, Québec.



About the Canadian Horticultural Council

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) represents producers across Canada primarily involved in the production and packing of over 100 fruit and vegetable crops. Members include provincial and national horticultural commodity organizations as well as allied and service organizations, provincial governments and individual producers.

As the voice of horticulture in Ottawa, the CHC represents members on key issues such as crop protection, access to a consistent supply of farm labour, food safety and traceability, fair access to markets, research and innovation and government programs to ensure or a more innovative, profitable and sustainable horticultural industry for future generations.

The CHC and its members are committed to ensuring that strong Canadian farms will continue to be able to provide safe, secure and healthy food for families in Canada, and around the world.

About Canada's horticulture sector

- The Canadian horticulture industry is the top agricultural employment sector in Canada with nearly 200,000 jobs.
- Farm gate sales, with additional processing, supply chain, and induced impacts create an economic footprint of \$11.4 billion in real GDP.
- There are over 27,500 horticulture farms in Canada covering close to 1,000,000 total acres of land.

For more information, contact:

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