

COMMUNIQUÉ **CANADAGAP**TM  COMMUNIQUÉ

To: CanadaGAP Stakeholders

From: Heather Gale, Executive Director
CanadaGAP Program

Date: March 4, 2013

Subject: **Notice to CanadaGAP Program Participants:
CHC \$50 Annual Charge for each operation enrolled in CanadaGAP**

For your information, CanadaGAP recently mailed the following letter to program participants. We wish to inform other stakeholders in the event that you receive questions about this communication.



February 26, 2013

Dear CanadaGAP Program Participant:

Subject: CHC \$50 annual charge per operation enrolled in CanadaGAP

You've recently received a communication from the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) informing you that a new \$50 charge will apply annually to each operation enrolled in the CanadaGAP Food Safety Program.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, CHC member associations voted to implement the new charge. The charge is intended to support CHC's activities in representing the interests of Canada's horticultural industry; it does not fund delivery of the CanadaGAP program.

To streamline administration, it was decided that CanadaGAP would collect the \$50 charge for CHC. Starting in 2013, each year you will be invoiced directly by CanadaGAP for this charge. If you have questions about this new charge or the CHC activities it will fund, visit the CHC website at www.hortcouncil.ca or contact the CHC spokesperson directly for your region, as indicated in the CHC letter:

- Atlantic: Alvin Keenan (Alvinkeenan@Pei.Aibn.Com / (902) 687-3333)
- Quebec: Claude Laniel (claniel@upa.qc.ca / (450) 679-0540 x 8617)
- Ontario: Murray Porteous (mporteous@execulink.com / (519) 428-4727)
- Prairies: Keith Kuhl (kgk@southernpotato.com / (204) 325-4318 x 226)
- BC: Jack Bates (jbates@dccnet.com / (604) 968-5907)

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your enrolment in CanadaGAP, and to remind you that the CanadaGAP annual program fee has not increased since 2008, and will remain the same for 2013. Since the launch of CanadaGAP in 2008, our commitment to program participants has been to keep the annual program fee as low as possible, and to charge only the amount needed to cover the cost of administering the program. Nothing has changed in our approach; with the transfer of program operations to CanAgPlus we continue to run a tight ship on a not-for-profit basis, and maintain our commitment to deliver a cost effective and quality service.

Your CanadaGAP annual program fee covers costs to:

- Process enrolment applications
- Maintain the technical standards and training materials
- Oversee licensed Certification Bodies and perform witness audits for quality control
- Provide technical assistance to Certification Bodies and auditors
- Approve CanadaGAP auditors to ensure they're qualified and maintain their competency
- Pursue international benchmarking and maintain recognition by GFSI and technical review status with the Canadian government
- Collect and analyse data to understand the impact of program requirements and to make improvements to the system
- Monitor developments in food safety science and media
- Communicate with program participants, government, media and the public
- Provide customer service and support and maintain the website
- Program marketing/education, financial management and administration
- Pay staff, office overhead and related expenses.

We appreciate your participation in the CanadaGAP program and pledge to continue meeting your service expectations at the lowest possible cost. Please feel free to contact us if you require our assistance.

Yours truly,
 Heather Gale, Executive Director
 CanadaGAP Program, CanAgPlus



CanadaGAP Program / Programme CanadaGAP ■ 9 Corvus Court, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2E 7Z4
 Tel/Tél. : 613-226-4880 ■ Fax/Télé. : 613-226-4497 ■ info@canadagap.ca ■ www.canadagap.ca

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