

## CanadaGAP™ Program under new ownership

November 12, 2012

CanadaGAP™, the national food safety program for fresh fruit and vegetable suppliers, is now operated by *CanAgPlus*, a new Canadian not-for-profit corporation that will operate CanadaGAP™ independently of the program's founding organization, the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC).

CanadaGAP™ was first launched as a food safety certification program in 2008 and has achieved international recognition. Over 2,000 fresh produce suppliers are currently enrolled for CanadaGAP™ certification.

**Under the new corporation, CanadaGAP™ Program requirements and the audit and certification process will remain the same for program participants and for certification bodies delivering third party audits.** However, the change in ownership has created new opportunities for those enrolled in CanadaGAP™. Program participants will become members of CanAgPlus, offering new rights and privileges to attend annual general meetings, submit resolutions, elect the Board of Directors, etc.

CanAgPlus was formed in a move to integrate CanadaGAP™ and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)'s Repacking and Wholesale Food Safety Program (RWSP). Integration of the two food safety programs will extend the stakeholder base and contribute to lower costs and greater efficiency for industry and for companies involved in growing, packing, storage, repacking and wholesale. The fully integrated program is not yet available, although work is actively progressing and will continue into 2013.

### Governance

Management of the CanadaGAP™ Program will be overseen by the CanAgPlus Board of Directors, appointed in August 2012 by CHC and CPMA, the two founding organizations:

Chair of the Board:	Tom Bytynen, Thomas Fresh Inc.
Vice-Chair:	Jack Bates, Tecarte Farms
Directors:	Hugh Bowman, Bayshore Vegetable Shippers Ltd. Claude Laniel, Conseil québécois de l'horticulture Grant Hackman, Peak of the Market Beth Pattillo, Kings Produce

The first Annual General Meeting for CanAgPlus is planned for November 2013, at which time members will elect a full board of eight directors. The general operating by-law and articles of incorporation are available to members upon request.

Under the new corporate structure, the On-Farm Food Safety Technical Working Group previously named by the CHC will be replaced by the **CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee**. Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Board of Directors through an open call for nominations from interested stakeholders. Find out more about program governance [here](#).

### Check out our new website

The CanadaGAP™ Program has a new look! Visit our new website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca).

**Contact us**

CanadaGAP™ staff will continue to be located at the same office in Ottawa. Our mailing address, fax, phone and extension numbers remain the same. Email addresses have changed. Please contact us at:

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**Fax:** 613-226-4497

**Web:** [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)

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**About the CanadaGAP™ Program**

CanadaGAP™ is a food safety certification program for companies that produce, pack and store fruits and vegetables. It is designed to help implement effective food safety procedures within fresh produce operations. Two manuals, one specific to Greenhouse, the second for other fruit and vegetable operations, were developed by the horticultural industry and reviewed for technical soundness by Canadian government officials. The manuals are designed for companies implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and maintaining an effective food safety program. CanadaGAP™ was recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for certification options B and C in May 2010.