



MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Corporate Tax Policy Changes: Letter to Minister of Finance and Request to take action

CHC has added its support to a letter co-signed by 35 organizations, calling on Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, to drop the recently announced federal tax changes for small business, and to hold meaningful consultations with the business community to address any shortcomings in tax policy without unfairly targeting independent businesses.

[Read the letter to Minister Morneau](#)

REMINDER: Take action ASAP and tell Government to rethink tax changes

CHC sent out a request asking our members to contact your Member of Parliament and tell them to rethink the proposed corporate tax changes. The government has already drafted legislation, even though the consultation period runs until October.

In order to influence Ottawa decision makers, we need your help. Your MP needs to hear directly from you to learn how your family and business will be impacted by the tax changes.

How the proposed corporate tax changes may impact you and your family:

- **Family Farms will be affected** – The proposed changes will increase complexity and uncertainty to any farm business that has incorporated, which represents 25% of all farm businesses across Canada. Changes to the lifetime capital gains exemption, amongst others, create unprecedented complexity for those multigenerational farms looking to transfer to the next generation, while presenting considerable uncertainty without further guidance. The current proposals create disincentives to passing farms on to the next generation, threatening the future financial health of multigenerational farms across Canada.

- **Farmers use tax planning tools, not loopholes** – Tax planning mechanisms are being used as was intended, and do not represent the 'loopholes' that the proposal currently portrays.

- **Small business owners are the middle class** – Most small business owners are firmly in the middle class, and employ roughly 70% of those employed in the private sector. These independent business owners are unfairly labelled as taking advantage of 'loopholes' and cheating the tax system.

- **Small business owners face unique risks and costs** – Small business owners take on business and financial risks that are not faced by wage-earning employees. These risks, amongst the range of costs they must also bear, are not considered in this discussion on fairness, leaving business owners at a considerable disadvantage.

- **Complexity, uncertainty and unintended consequences** – The proposals are highly technical, with complex interactions throughout the Income Tax Act. Many tax practitioners who have had over a month to review these proposed changes are still parsing through them. Given the implementation dates of these proposals, this complexity and lack of understanding presents a significant risk to business owners that must make critical tax-related decisions in the coming months.

Please advise CHC of any action you're taking, and/or, if you require any further information, contact Jennifer Babcock: jbabcock@hortcouncil.ca

September 2017



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COVER CROP PROGRAMS

For those putting cover crops in please remember there are programs out there to help cover the cost.

1) HMGA Cover Crop Program

Funds are still available in this program. If you are interested please contact Jody.

2) Lake Simcoe Soil Health Improvement Project

This offers up to 50% cost-share to a maximum of \$20,000 in funding.

Cover Crops, Crop Nutrient Plans, Buffer Strips, Windbreaks and Windstrips, Equipment Customization, Erosion Control Structures, Fragile Land Retirement and Runoff Water Management Qualify for this project.

For more information contact: SHIP@ontariosoilcrop.org or 226-706-8669

BRIDGE STREET LIGHTS

We continue to work with BWG to find a way to make this intersection safer. We attended the town meeting on September 5, 2017 where the town report was brought forward. Council was given two options. It was agreed upon that something needs to be put in place but requested the staff for another report to help make a plan going forward. We will keep you updated as this moves forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPMA - Gala November 17, 2017

OFVGA - February 20, 2018

OFVC - February 21-22, 2018

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Holland Marsh Growers' Association
140 Holland Street
Box 13065
Bradford, ON L3Z 1Y0

CONTACTING THE ASSOCIATION

Please note the following for contacting Jody:

Email: hmgexec@gmail.com

Phone: 905-251-6786

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm