



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AIPH welcomes new Canadian bill in support of Plant Breeders Rights**

On December 9 the Government of Canada introduced a new bill that will stimulate investment and innovation in Canada's agricultural and horticultural sectors and give Canadian farmers, breeders and growers more tools to compete and thrive in world markets and at home.

The *Agricultural Growth Act* will increase farmers and growers' access to new crop varieties, enhance trade opportunities and the safety of agricultural products, reduce red tape and contribute to Canada's overall economic growth. Canadian Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said: "Our government is committed to supporting Canada's farmers and our world-class agriculture industry so they can remain competitive in world markets. Armed with the latest science, tools and practices, our agriculture sector will continue to be an important driver of Canada's economy."

Among the key changes being proposed in this bill are amendments to the [Plant Breeders' Rights Act \(PBR Act\)](#) to align with the [International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants \(UPOV Convention 1991\)](#) which would update Canada's legislation from the now outdated framework of the UPOV Convention 1978.

AIPH, the International Association for Horticultural Producers, representing horticultural producers' organizations all over the world, applauds Canada's introduction of the *Agricultural Growth Act* and encourages other countries to accelerate the implementation of plant breeder's rights and to bring their legislation in line with the UPOV-Convention 1991.

Chairman of the AIPH Novelty Protection Committee, Bernard Oosterom, commented: "AIPH supports a strong and balanced plant breeders rights (PBR) framework, the rights of breeders to act against infringement of their rights and the rights of growers who legally use protected varieties. From this perspective AIPH fully endorses the UPOV plant variety rights system and is of the opinion that it plays a very positive role in the development of the agricultural and horticultural sector, and the relationship between breeders, farmers and growers. Both sectors will benefit from the new bill. Canada is actively involved in AIPH with Canadian Ornamental Horticulture Alliance (COHA), Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), Flowers Canada Growers (FCG), and la fédération interdisciplinaire de l'horticulture ornementale du Québec (FIHOQ) all being members."

AIPH is of the opinion that strengthening intellectual property rights for plant breeding in Canada will encourage investment in Canadian research and development. This will give Canadian breeders,

farmers and growers more access to new and innovative plant varieties, which could enhance crop yield, improve disease and drought resistance, and meet global trade demands.

## **Contacts**

Tim Briercliffe, AIPH Secretary General

Email: [sg@aiph.org](mailto:sg@aiph.org)    Tel: +44 (0) 118 9308956    Mobile: +44 (0) 7885 750324

Website: [www.aiph.org](http://www.aiph.org)

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## **Notes for Editors:**

### **International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)**

AIPH is a co-ordinating body representing horticultural producers' organizations all over the world. It was set up in Switzerland in 1948 to stimulate the international marketing of flowers, plants and landscaping services. Currently membership consists of 26 organisations from 19 countries. For further details visit [www.aiph.org](http://www.aiph.org).