

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs



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Tél: 416 .327.5519  
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April 9, 2020

Dear Certificate Holder,

The health and well-being of every Ontarian continues to be our number one priority. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

As the province works to keep Ontarians safe during this time, there have been mandatory closures of non-essential workplaces, such as ministry-approved examination sites, and there was also an emergency order prohibiting organized gatherings of more than five people. These measures support the Chief Medical Officer's direction for physical distancing to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

In order to assist the province with its continued efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus has cancelled all in-person courses and exams, including the Grower Pesticide Safety Course.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is extending the validity of certain certificates whose holders are unable to renew their certificate during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The ministry continues to work with the university to assess alternative options to in-person courses and exams.

### **Extension of your certificate**

If you have a Grower Pesticide Safety Course certificate that expires on or after January 1, 2020, and you have not been able to complete the training and exams due to the COVID-19 outbreak, your certificate is now valid until December 31, 2020.

This letter serves as notice that the Director, under the authority of subsection 43 (1) (c) (i) of O. Reg. 63/09: General, made under the *Pesticides Act*, is extending the period of time within which you must have last successfully completed the course to December 31, 2020.

Please attach this letter to your existing Grower Pesticide Safety Course certificate as confirmation of the extension of your certificate's expiry date. This will allow you to purchase pesticides from vendors without interruption.

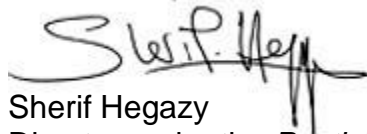
**Required action**

You do not need to take any further action at this time.

We appreciate your patience and understanding. We are all working together to combat this outbreak and hope that normal business operations will resume as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please direct them to [SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca](mailto:SDB-PesticideApproval@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherif Hegazy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sherif Hegazy  
Director under the *Pesticides Act*

cc: Jamie Sanders, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division