

**Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
BC Branch Continuing Education Webinar Series
Fall 2016- Spring 2017**

**Why are Good Agriculture and Collection Practices important to public health?
March 9, 2017 from 09:00 - 10:00 (PST)**

The presentation will include a brief background of the Herb, Spice, Specialty Agriculture Association (HSSA), its associated programs, and mandate. The national Good Agriculture and Collection Practices (GACP) program will be outlined in detail from development and collaborations to benchmarking and delivery. It will outline how HACCP plays a role and what that means to those using the program. The presentation will use an example such as how a small scale producer/processor would use the program and why. The description will detail how a producer/processor gets involved and what is required of them. This is the only GACP program in Canada but the presentation will outline its relationship with other food safety programs across the country and in BC. The GACP program scope is field to shelf across the specialty agriculture sector. There is cross over between GACP programs and others across the country. MOUs have been developed to address these common areas.

Connie Kehler

Executive Director, Herb, Spice, Specialty Agriculture Association (HSSA)



Connie Kehler has been leading and supporting the specialty agriculture product industry for the last 25 years across Canada. She was program manager for the development of the across agriculture national on farm food safety programs (COFFS) and was Vice President of the development of the national traceability model (Cantrace). She has presented in Peru, China, Guatemala and across Canada.

Connie and her team (CHSNC) developed the Good Agriculture and Collection Practices (GACPs), from field and forest to plate, together with industry, the World Health Organization, American Herbal Product Association and other lead USA Herb research groups, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada and Agriculture Canada

Connie sits on many national committees including the National Agrifood Sub Committee for Food Safety, both the Organic and Special Crops Value Chain Round Table and was also part of the industry liaison committee for Health Canada is in NHPD regulatory development. CHSNC goal has been to work with industry to develop and deliver tools that fit and meet industry needs. GACP training has been happening coast to coast with over 800 people trained.