

Dear Manitoba Greenhouse and Nursery Operators,

This has been a difficult time for Manitoba businesses which is impacting our communities and the economy. We know that the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19 has been challenging. Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about greenhouses not being listed as an essential service under the March 30, 2020 provincial order.

In consultation with the Chief Provincial Public health Officer, it has been determined that greenhouses and nurseries will now be included on the essential service schedule when the new order appears on April 16, 2020.

The sales of flowers, ornamental shrubs, and other plants provides a vital source of revenue for Manitoba horticultural operators. Supporting the ongoing viability of the industry also helps uphold the integrity of the supply chain. The Manitoba Government recognizes that the survival of retail nursery and greenhouse operations depend on these businesses being allowed to operate during this crisis.

Thank you to Janice Morley-Lecomte and Dorothy Dobbie for co-chairing Manitoba's Greenhouse Task Force Committee. This committee has been instrumental in collecting and providing recommendations including protocols for the inclusion of greenhouses/nurseries to be deemed essential.

Manitoba's top focus remains the health and safety of our citizens in the face of this pandemic. We have confidence that you, as a business owner, will take all appropriate steps and actions necessary to ensure the safety of your customers. You can view the public health orders and list of critical services online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Anastasia Kubinec at 204-750-2717 or Anastasia.kubinec@gov.mb.ca.

I wish you a successful growing season.

Sincerely,

Blaine Pedersen

Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development