



Annual Report

for the Year Ended March 31, 2004

Council Members

2003-2004

Sylvan Raaen, Chair

Irmgard Critcher, Vice Chair

Ross Ravelli

Barry Follensbee

Martin Moore

Council Objectives

The Council's goal is to enhance the grain industry in the BC Peace River region. As such, the Council is responsive to the initiatives of producers and producer associations and supports development initiatives that would result in increased opportunities for the BC grain industry.

Funding Program

The Council has established a funding program, using levy funds collected, to support projects which enhance and promote the BC grain industry. Assistance under the Program is open to all producer associations, private individuals, companies, industrial, private and public institutions, and Canadian Universities which undertake projects consistent with the program's objectives as specified below.

Objectives:

1) Infrastructure Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Commodity Organization-Feasibility or Value Added Industry	2) Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Market Research-Plant Breeding Research-Agronomic Production Research
3) Market Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Identify New Opportunities-Identify Existing Opportunities-Improve Market Share	4) Technology Transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Agronomic-Marketing-Financial management-Safety and Environmental Concerns
5) Promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Commodity-Image Enhancement-Education - Public Schools-Food Safety	

All applications should be forwarded directly to the British Columbia Peace River Grain Industry Development Council for evaluation by December 15th.

How the Council Works

In 1989 the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries introduced Bill 44, the “Farming and Fisheries Industries Development Act” which was passed by the BC Legislature. Under this legislation, the “Grain Industry Development Fund Regulation” was passed by an Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council July 26, 1990.

The Act provided for the establishment of an industry commodity council whose mandate is to set and collect a levy and to fund field crop enhancement. The levy is legally enforceable and penalties are provided for those who do not comply. Initially, the council members were appointed by the Minister.

Pursuant to Bill 52, the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food approved the election of producer representatives to the British Columbia Peace River Grain Industry Development Council. Accordingly, the council held a referendum and won the right to have elected members. The Council is composed of farmer representatives from the North and South Peace, along with a representative from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and a representative from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The purpose of the British Columbia Peace River Grain Industry Development Council is to administer collection of the levy and evaluate proposals for funding. The Council will consider projects that foster and promote the field crops industry.

It is the policy of the Council to maintain one year’s levy collected in reserve prior to allocation. The Council collects a Levy of 0.33% of the gross amount payable on grain and oilseeds grown in the BC Peace River Region when it is delivered. For example, on a 400 bushel load of barley sold at \$1.50 per bushel, the Levy would be \$1.98. Producers contributing to the British Columbia Peace River Grain Industry Development Council have an opportunity to apply for a refund of the previous year’s contribution between January 1 and January 31. Refund request forms are available from the Council or at the elevators.

Other Developments

Since 1997, the Council has been working with all commodity groups in the Peace River Region and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food to set up the Peace River Agriculture Development (PRAD) Fund. The PRAD Fund was established in the amount of \$1.2 million in December of 1997. The Ministry successfully negotiated with the federal government for matching funds, and the Federal PRAD Fund of \$1.2 million was distributed between April 1998 and March 2002.

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2003 LEVY

Total \$53,489.96

BC Grain Producers Association

1. Crop Research Liaison Project \$2,825.00

A member of the BC Grain Producer Association will be nominated as a director to the Western Grains Research Foundation, and will attend meetings and participate in discussions to communicate the need for crop research pertinent to the Peace River Region. Also several members of the BC Grain Producers will attend meetings with the Prairie Registration Recommending Committee to have input into crop Research & Variety selection. Each member will contribute in their field of expertise on various crops like, wheat, barley, peas and other. Various local Research meetings will be attended to determine research selections for the local variety & agronomic trials as well as new crop developments. Specialty crops like pulses are also vital to this area and with our affiliation with the Alberta Pulse grower's association we are able to have input into production research & variety selection process.

2. Environment & Wildlife Liaison \$2,449.00

The objective of this project is to have members of the BC Grain Producers attend local Peace River Regional District Wildlife Committee meetings, which address Agriculture and Wildlife conflicts and work to remedy such conflicts. Also, there is currently representation from the Grain Producers to the Provincial Partnership Committee which works with government agencies to provide solutions for conflicts with agriculture and the environment. The affiliation between the Grain Producers and the Grain Growers of Canada allows us to stay current with what is happening nationally in regards to environmental research and environmental regulatory requirements for the Agriculture Industry.

3. Grain Market Accessibility and Transportation Project \$2,312.50

The relative geographic isolation of the BC Peace region presents unique challenges in product marketing and transportation to grain producers in this region. This project addresses various concerns with rail and road transportation, as well as providing a liaison with the other players to ensure the viability of adequate transportation and improved marketing options for all grains and oilseeds grown in the Peace.

4. Business Risk Management Consultation \$3,375.00

The objective of this project is to actively participate in the development and improvement of risk management tools and communicate the results back to producers. This project will ensure that the interests of the BC Peace Grain industry are represented on various Safety Nets Advisory committees, Grain Growers of Canada, BC Agriculture Council, and other industry groups.

5. Canola Council Representation \$2,541.50

The objective of this project is to have a strong presence at a national level in the development of new canola varieties, crop research and market opportunities.

This project will ensure that the BC Peace oilseed industry is represented on a national level to have direct input in a decision making capacity to help determine the future of canola production. In addition, the 2004 Summer meeting of the Canola Council of Canada Crop Production Committee is being held in the BC Peace on June 23rd and 24th. This alone will give the BC Peace area a showcase at the national level.

NOTE: The above projects were each funded at 25% of total project value through the Levy Funds together with “in-kind” funds of an additional 25% of total project value. This use of “Producer Funds” allowed each project to receive the balance of required money through the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund.

6. Variety and Agronomic Trials \$31,511.96

These trials involve testing new varieties of traditional and non-traditional crops against industry standards. This testing identifies those new varieties that are well adapted to the area, as well as those that do not perform well. Testing at locations within the region is essential as varieties differ in performance from region to region. This data is used by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and by private industry for recommending crop varieties, and by producers in choosing which varieties to grow. Results are posted annually on the BC Grain Producers website at www.bcgrain.com