

Title of Project: Safety Nets ProjectReport Title: **Annual Report**

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

Organization(s): BC Grain Producers Association.

Contact Person: Jim Smolik, Chair

Address: Box 161, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4H3

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Objectives:

- Represent the grain/ oilseed producers on Safety Nets Advisory Committees in program development by the Ag Risk Management Branch.
- Pursue change to Government programs for the betterment of the grain industry.
- Represent the BCGPA on the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) and forward relevant information to BC producers.
- Travel to meetings to represent BC Grain Producers

Accomplishments:

- Documented the economic hurt in the grain sector for the year 2000
- Negotiated with BCMAFF the allocation (of \$24.7Mill) for the grain & oilseed sector
- Designed guidelines & application process/ forms for the Canada British Columbia Assistance Program
- Delivered fund to area producers, \$22.60\per acre (2 cheques)
- Participated in the Ag Policy Framework consultations
- Participated in inaugural annual general meeting of Grain Growers of Canada
- Input through National Safety Net Advisory committee on risk management programs for the grain sector

Tasks in progress:

- Ongoing liaison with Provincial Safety Nets Advisory Committee members and government personnel with the BC Ag Risk Management Branch as changes to programs are developed
- Ongoing liaison with BC Agriculture Council
- Ongoing liaison with provincial crop insurance advisory committee
- Selection of reps for Investment Agriculture Foundation board
- Continued communication with Grain Grower's of Canada on Trade Injury Compensation Program

Extension and demonstration:

- Organized several safety nets information meetings to discuss strategy to pursue allocation for grain sector.
- Intense advertising campaign to inform producer's of availability of CBCAP program
- Mailed out information, application forms, etc. to producers.
- Provided updates on status of CBCAP progress during delivery of the fund, through the media.
- Made presentations at the BCGPA AGM in February

Finances:

Budet

\$11,300.00

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:

Administration of CBCAP Fund.

Summary comments, conclusions:

This committee continues to be a high priority for BCGPA directors, members and area producers.

Attachments: detailed financial Safety Net Project statement attached

Detailed Committee report by Chairman attached

Title of Project: Safety Nets Project

Report Title: **Annual Report by Chairman**

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The safety nets committee was very busy this year, with the majority of our time spent on the Canada / British Columbia Assistance Program (CBCAP). While still in the process of closing down the Transportation Adjustment Fund, we needed to start work on the CBCAP. The work involved determining the economic hurt for each sector in British Columbia, signing a contribution agreement with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, allocation of funds to sectors, development of application form, advertising through-out province, and finally distribution of funds to eligible growers. That is certainly the short version of the work involved. There are hundreds of man-hours put in by directors, as well as sitting on the provincial appeal committee for all commodities. There will still be more work involved in closing down the CBCAP by March of 2003.

The safety net committee also participates on the provincial safety nets committee, it continues to be the goal of the BCGPA to bring attention to issues affecting the Grains & Oilseed sector. We also continue to work to harmonize the Whole Farm Insurance Program with CFIP. We were to participate on a sub-committee to look at companion programs for Grains & Oilseeds; however, there has been no political will to start this. The most probable reason for this is the ending of the Fed. / Prov. agreement in March 31, 2003, with a significant amount of time in last two months going toward the Agricultural Policy Framework. In all I have attended 5 meetings in Richmond this past year, participated on numerous conference calls, as well as writing several letters stating the position of the BCGPA. Again this represents significant hours / days of volunteer time.

This is the first year (July, 2001) of my participation on the National Safety Nets Advisory Committee. Through our association with BC Agriculture Council, I was asked to be the representative at these meetings. To date I have attended two meetings (one specific to GMO) and also participated on two conference calls. This committee generally meets 4 times per year, and has several conference calls. With the meetings in Ottawa, it requires days away from my business to participate.

As mentioned earlier, our association with BCAC also requires attending meetings, conference calls and reporting back to directors. To date I have attended 2 meetings and participated on several conference calls. With the changes, as a director of BCAC, I was involved in picking the Investment Agriculture Foundation directors last year. I must also report to the BCAC board of directors on the National Safety Nets Committee, as well as the Provincial Safety Nets Committee.

For 2 years the BCGPA have been associated with the Grain Growers of Canada, as a director I have been involved in numerous conference calls, attended the AGM, and participate on the Farm Income Working group. Because this is a national group, there is a large e-mail network to respond to on an almost daily basis.

After each meeting a report is made available to directors so as to keep them up to speed on our activities. There is also a verbal report given at directors meetings, and a chance for directors to set the direction at that time. As this is only a brief outline of the activities of the Safety Nets Committee for the past year, we would be willing to answer any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Smolik,
Chair, Safety Nets Committee