



Annual Report

for the Year Ended March 31, 2000

Council Members

1999-2000

Garnet Berge, Chair

John Aalhus, Vice Chair

Willy Rath

Irmgard Critcher

Sylvan Raaen

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

Under the “Farming and Fisheries Industries Development Act” (Bill 44), the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries established the British Columbia Peace River Grain Development Council through the Grain Industry Development Fund Regulation which was passed by an Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council in July, 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. These funds are held in trust and have been earning interest as outlined in the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund Annual Report compiled by the BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council which is responsible for the distribution of the Fund under terms of the Contribution Agreement signed with the Province.

The Ministry successfully negotiated with the federal government for matching funds, and the Federal PRAD Fund of \$1.2 million is being distributed between April 1998 and March 2002.

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 1999 LEVY

Total \$39,045

BC Grain Producers Association

1. Crop Research Liaison Project \$1,035.00

Three representatives of the Research Committee will attend the Prairie Registration Recommending Committee for Grain (PRRCG) meeting. The meeting is held in February and is important because crop development decisions are made which affect all grain producers. Participation by the BCGPA allows input and increases our knowledge of varietal and other grain industry development issues in Western Canada.

Members of the Research Committee will also attend the advisory committee meetings for the Beaverlodge and Lacombe Research Stations and the BC Coordinating Agriculture Research Council.

2. Industrial Hemp Project \$4,690.00

The objective of this project is to determine the suitability of industrial hemp as a crop in the Peace River Region of BC; to provide information to farmers and others so they can reduce their risk in producing this new “old” crop; and, to provide regional information so that profitable market opportunities may be captured.

3. Transportation Project \$1,242.00

Rail issues, grain handling and transportation issues have become the number one concern facing Peace region producers and directors of the BCGPA. We need continued participation in meetings like the Fields on Wheels conference in Winnipeg, attended by two members of this committee recently. As talks continue with Louis Dreyfus and other grain companies, and with changes coming out of the Krueger report, this committee needs to be able to quickly act on the behalf of grain producers in a timely manner.

Road issues, too, continue to be a critical issue to all resource producing segments of the economy, including agriculture. Plans to address the problem include: public forums and discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and North Peace Rural Road Task Force to prioritise the location of road repairs and maintenance. Other issues may also arise, and will be dealt with as required.

4. Safety Nets \$874.00

Representation on the Provincial Safety Nets Advisory Committee is critical to grain producers in the BC Peace region. This representation ensures that our voice is heard and gives the grain sector an opportunity for direct into programs developed by the BC Agriculture Risk Management Branch. Membership in the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) will give grain producers another source for information and a forum to discuss and forward issues affecting producers in the BC Peace.

5. Canola Council Representation \$1,434.05

The project Chair has been appointed as a Director for the Canola Council of Canada. This direct participation in the industry ensures that our region is well represented and that we will be advised of developments in the industry and problems and activities that affect all producers.

6. Variety and Agronomic Trials \$7,700.00

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.

7. Marketing Project \$345.00

The Marketing Project representative will attend Canadian Wheat Board meetings in the area. Other meetings to discuss grain marketing may be required as issues arise. The marketing of malt barley may become important in the near future due to the opportunities to replace production from Manitoba and North Dakota. The project will also sponsor a markets information seminar. This may be especially important when there is an oversupply and low prices.

8. Pulse Project \$144.90

The Pulse Project representative will pursue information pertinent to producers growing pulse crops in the BC Peace. Attending Alberta Pulse Growers Association meetings/seminars and receiving the Pulse Crop Newsletter will provide information that can be shared with Peace region producers.

9. Pest Management Biologist Project \$12,000.00

This project is part of a three year program which will assist in the hiring of a Pest Management Biologist to be based at the Beaverlodge Research Station who will be responsible for developing an integrated pest management program for Lygus attacking canola, and to develop an insect monitoring and treatment program for improving fescue seed production in the Peace River regions of Alberta and British Columbia.

10. Cross Commodity Manager Project \$9,580.00

In cooperation with the Peace Region Forage Seed Association and the Peace River Forage Association, the BC Grain Producers Association has entered into a three year agreement to

obtain the services of a qualified individual who will act as a business manager to enhance the activities and development of these associations. In addition, this person will relieve the increasing workload on volunteer executives, will assist the executive and member activities by providing administrative and communication support, and will assist associations in managing their research, demonstration, and communication projects.