



Annual Report
For the Year Ended March 31, 2016

To

The Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia
Pursuant to the requirements of the Farming and Fisheries Development Act
and Regulations

Council Members 2015-2016

Barry Follensbee, Chair

Barry Critcher, Vice Chair

Rick Kantz

Martin Odermatt

Willy Rath

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 program objectives as specified below.

All applications should be forwarded electronically directly to the British Columbia Peace River Grain Industry Development Council, at email address gidc@bcpeace.com. Printed copies may be sent to Box 144 Station Main, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4G3 for evaluation. The deadline to submit funding applications is 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 and Lands and previously, a representative from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Grain, Oilseed & Pulse Levy

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 Council policy 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. 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.

Peace Region Forage Seed Levy

At the request of the Peace Region Forage Seed Association, Council prepared a request to the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to set the rate of Levy on Forage and Turf Seeds at 0.75% of the gross amount payable by the first receiver. In April 2004 this request was officially approved by Order in Council and the Levy was collected beginning July 1, 2004. A report on the Forage Seed Levy, together with Audited Financial Statements, is attached to this report.



PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2014 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY
Total \$ 146,380.33

Projects Sponsored by BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2015-01	2015 Director's Meeting Remuneration
Budget	\$ 11,562
Objective	To provide remuneration to the directors for the travel costs and the time they are away from their farms and businesses attending BCGPA Director's Meetings in order to attract and retain directors.
Status	In progress

2015-02	Directors Support
Budget	\$ 17,500
Objective	To provide support staff to the BCGPA Directors to relieve them of day to day operations.
Status	In progress

2015-03	Information Seminar 2016
Budget	\$ 5,000
Objective	To provide a venue for information sharing and networking between industry, government and grain and oilseed producers in the BC Peace Region.
Summary	In progress

2015-04	Membership Fees to Other Organizations
Budget	\$ 17,600
Objective	To ensure the BCGPA has adequate representation on grain and oilseed committees at both a provincial and national level. It also ensures they are on committees that are involved in policy making that will impact the grain and oilseed industry.
Status	In Progress

2015-05	Research Meeting Director Remuneration
Budget	\$ 7,635
Objective	To provide remuneration to the BCGPA Research Committee Members for the travel costs and the time they are away from their farms and businesses attending BCGPA research meetings in order to attract and retain committee members.
Status	In progress

2015-06	Representing Peace Agriculture
Budget	\$ 25,000
Objective	To address issues affecting producers in the BC Peace in a timely and effective manner. Agricultural producers are relying on the directors of the organization to be proactive in their approach to dealing with agriculture matters. This project was splits into seven concerns that have been flagged as important to agriculture producers across the BC Peace



	Region: Business Risk Management; Environment; Food Safety / Biosecurity; Marketing; Member Connection & Public Awareness; Research; and, Transportation
Status	In progress

2015-07	Variety Trial Research
Budget	\$ 34,734.33
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide regional data on newly registered varieties to show advancement in yield, quality or disease resistant relative to current varieties grown locally To regional data on newly registered and pre-registered varieties of winter wheat to show viability in northern climates To provide seeding rate data on maturity and yield for canola and wheat using multiple seeding rates To determine if lentils could be a potential crop for the Peace Region and other northern climates To determine if quinoa could be a potential crop for the Peace Region and other northern climates To work with flax breeders on the development of flax genetics to establish and earlier maturing and higher yielding flax variety(s) appropriate for northern latitudes short-season climates To produce data for a support of a variety registration of wheat, barley and oats To work with pulse plant breeders on the development of pea genetics to establish earlier maturing and higher yielding pea varieties suitable for northern latitudes and short-season climates
Status	In progress

2015-08	Peace Pest Monitoring – year 2
Budget	\$ 10,909
Objective	To collect and monitor critical data regarding pests, diseases, weeds and invasive species to increase availability of data and analysis for the BC Peace. To improve the ability to evaluate if and how the prevalence and distribution of pests, diseases and weeds is changing and to quickly identify risks to agricultural production. The project sets to improve long term capacity to track changes occurring in prevalence and distribution of pests.
Summary	This project is a collaborative effort between Agriculture & Agri-food Canada, BC Grain Producers Association, Peace Region Forage Seed Association and the Zero Till Association. This pilot project laid the groundwork for pest issues and priorities in the BC Peace Region. Potentially long-lasting collaborations between producers, industry partners and government were established. Because of this projects, a large gap in the region’s ability to respond to pest issues was closed. Feedback from producers was positive as they were appreciative to have a local resource assisting with pest problems.
Status	Completed under budget \$7935.35



2015-09	Peace Agriculture Weather Monitoring and Decision Support Tool
Budget	\$ 16,440
Objective	To provide support for long-term availability of weather data for the agriculture industry in the BC Peace.
Status	In progress

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2015 FORAGE SEED LEVY
Total \$ 48,623

Projects Sponsored by Peace Region Forage Seed Association

The Peace Region Forage Seed Association is a joint BC-Alberta producer and processor organization that undertakes projects to enhance the forage seed industry. The BC Forage Seed Growers provide recommendations to the BC Peace Region Grain Industry Development Council on projects to fund. More detail on these projects is posted at the Association website www.peaceforageseed.ca.

2015-14	Forage Seed Research Projects
Budget	\$ 29,998

	Climate Action Pest Monitoring
Budget	\$8,681
Objective	To contribute to the pest management research (including weeds, insects and diseases) in the Peace Region. Our contribution ensures that some of the data collected is applicable to the forage seed industry in the BC Peace River area. Up until the present time, this type of data has been collected through the Beaverlodge Research Farm and has not directly pertained to the BC Peace Region.
Summary	Pilot project complete with a spin-off project underway.
Status	Complete

	Innovative Management Practices for Resiliency
Budget	\$1,250
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To optimize the utilization of nutrients such as timing, form and placement of fertilizer and manure management to minimize losses. To work with producers to establish crop production that is resilient to weather extremes using economically and environmentally sound practices.
Summary	
Status	In progress and on track



Climate Action Weather Monitoring	
Budget	\$1,315
Objective	To support the collection of long term weather data for agricultural producers in the Peace Region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a collaborative approach to expanding and maintaining the weather monitoring network within the BC Peace Region • Increase the quantity and quality of weather data available to support producer's decisions (real-time, season and long term) • Increase the availability of relevant decision support tools for Peace Region producers
Summary	First year complete. Second year in progress
Status	In progress and on track

AgriInnovation Program Industry-led Research and Development Stream	
Budget	\$18,752
Objective	To fulfill the commitments with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for activities being done at Beaverlodge Research Farm. There was an initial payment at the time of signing the agreement and this is the 3rd payment for the 2015- 2016 fiscal year of the project. This is a 5-year project with the final payment due in February 2018. There are 6 activities included in this project. There is work being done on crop rotations, fertility, growth regulators, cultivar trials, herbicide/minor use and pest management.
Summary	This is a five-year project ending in 2018 with the federal government.
Status	Written reports complete, financials pending.

2015-15	PRFSA Administration and Operation
Budget	\$ 18,625

Information 2015	
Budget	\$6,250
Objective	This project includes all outreach communication activities including publications, website updates and Forage Seed News magazines. It enables PRFSA to send out 3 to 5 packages of information over the coming year to a mailing list of 1000 levy paying growers and PRFSA associate members. These packages include recent research findings/updates, spring herbicide tolerance updates, levy updates, new factsheet publications and the Forage Seed News magazine. Information goes with the Forage Seed News magazine packages, whenever possible, to save postage (3 of 5 mailings).
Summary	The main activity of this project is to disseminate information through articles. Three annual newsletters were distributed.
Status	Complete



Events 2015	
Budget	\$1,750
Objective	These funds enable PRFSA to have a seminar which will take place in Fort St. John, BC this year. This is a day which allows research reports to be presented in order to bring members up to date on projects that have occurred over the past year. Keynote speakers with valuable information from outside the Peace River Region are also highlighted during the day.
Summary	Events include the AGM and seminar. Stephanie Green from the USDA in Colorado presented on working with Round Up Ready Alfalfa.
Status	Complete

2015- Operating & General 2015	
Budget	\$10,625
Objective	This project covers items such as the joint membership in the BC Agriculture council with the BC Grain Producers Association and a membership in Forage Seed Canada. It also covers directors' remuneration for meeting, travel and per diems for directors' time away from their businesses. It also covers a portion of PRFSA's annual bookkeeping/accountant/legal expenses. This request is based on covering the BC growers' share of these items.
Summary	This funding contributes to the ongoing association operations. Daily left-over funds roll in to subsequent years.
Status	Complete

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund (PRAD)

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 administer 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 have been used since April 2002 to fund agriculture-related projects 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 was distributed between April 1998 and March 2002.

The Peace River Agriculture Development Fund Contribution Agreement did not specify a time frame for the use of the funds so the Council has been able to continue to support local initiative for the past 18 years. A federal program noted above did assist for several years which allowed the Provincial funds to be extended considerably. The Council now foresees the expiry of these funds within a few years.

A 2015-16 annual report is attached summarizing the projects supported for a total of \$101,434.

Western Grain Stabilization Adjustment Fund.

When the Federal Government removed the Western Grain Transportation Assistance Act (Crow Rate) for grain exports, The BC Grain Industry Development Council was allocated these transition funds by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support grain industry development in the BC Peace. A commitment was made in 2014 to



support the acquisition of a new research plot combine for the BC Grain Producers Research Department. This machine replaced the older unit, and provides modern electronic data reporting functions to speed harvest and reporting of plot yields to researchers. The total funds allocated for the combine was \$135,000.

Financial Reports

The BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council engages an accounting firm, Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP to perform an annual audit review of Council financial affairs. A copy of this review is attached for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2015 year, so the financial report includes accrual adjustments to reflect the fiscal year. In addition, a copy of the Peace River Forage Seed Levy annual audit review is attached for the Forage Seed Levy. This encompasses both BC and Alberta forage seed levies. The BC portion then forms a part of the Council financial report.

Internet supported Information Sharing

The BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council maintains a web site at www.bcpeace.com which provides extensive historical information about Council activities as well as applications for current funding. Partner organizations also maintain web sites which include more detail on specific projects which have been supported by funds administered by the Council. These sites include acknowledgment where appropriate of funding provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The BC Grain Producers Association site is www.bcgrain.com.

The Peace River Forage Association site is www.peaceforage.bc.ca.

The Peace Region Forage Seed Association site is www.peaceforageseed.ca.

Questions for further information may be sent to gfdc@bcpeace.com.

Respectfully submitted,

BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Follensbee".

Barry Follensbee, Chair.