

Title of Project: Grain Transportation Project

Report Title: Annual Report

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Organization(s): BC Grain Producers Association

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Objectives:

- To keep abreast of transportation issues that affect or will affect all farmers in the BC Peace.
- To utilize the information gathered and learned, to improve the economies of Grain Transportation for BC Peace Region farmers.
- To reduce the costs where possible.
- To encourage more efficient use of our grain transportation system (rail and truck).

Accomplishments:

- Met with Bruce MacKay re: priorities for spending \$2.2 M on rural roads in BC Peace
- Met with stakeholders (Agricore, Pioneer, Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Pacific) to discuss the Dawson Creek BC Rail/ CN issue on March 19, 2001. Ad hoc committee working on follow up to quantify and move forward on the issue.

Tasks in progress:

- Encourage other members of Peace agriculture and community leaders to learn more about grain transportation.
- Ensure that the BC Peace Region perspective remains broad and multi dimensional and that more than one person can discuss in detail the various impacts of these two reports with interested farmers.
- Working on getting DC and FSJ to be hubs of grain commerce for all Peace grains.
- Working on persuading Louis Dreyfus elevator company that either DC or FSJ are a viable, low cost, high grain volume and profitable location to source grain.
- Working to understand the issues and implications of the Estey Recommendations and Kroeger Report as they affect us here in the BC Peace Region.
- Working on solving the BC Rail/ CN Rail issue in DC.
- New initiatives will occur as the issues change and as issues gain or lose importance.
- Continuing discussion on distribution of WGTA funds in BC Peace.

Extension and demonstration:

- Talked with area farmers, community leaders and farm leaders.
- Encouraged government people to understand the issues and implications.

Finances:

Total approved project	\$6,210.00
Revenue from Levy & PRAD	\$5,713.20
Expenditures (inc. admin.)	\$3,754.57
Excess	\$1,958.63

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:

- No variances from work plan as approved in Jan. 2000.

Summary comments, conclusions: the grains industry continues to be plagued with problems with rural roads and rail issues. This committee continues to be of importance to area producers.

Attachments: none