

## Report prepared for Peace River Agriculture Development Fund

**Title of Project:** Canola Council Representation 2005  
**Report Title:** Annual Report  
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**Organization(s):** B.C. Grain Producers Association  
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### Objectives:

The focus of this committee is to have a strong presence at a national level in the development of new canola varieties, crop research and market opportunities, and policy making by representing the BC Grain Producers on the Canadian Canola Growers Association board of Directors, sitting on the Canola Council of Canada's Crop Production Committee and representing the Canola industry on the Grain Grower's of Canada board of directors

### Activities & Accomplishments:

BCGPA maintains membership with 2 national canola organizations, Canadian Canola Growers Association and Canola Council of Canada. BCGPA's representative on these committees is Ross Ravelli, currently the president of the Canadian Canola Growers Association. These group's main activities are outlined below:

The **Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA)**, with a combined membership of over 60,000 growers. Its purpose is to influence national issues and policies and enhance the profitability of Canadian canola growers.

The Canola Liaison committee sits on the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA), which is the umbrella organization whose members are the 6 grower groups stretching from BC to Ontario and the Canola Council of Canada (CCC), which represents the complete value chain of canola in Canada- growers, exporters, crushers and life science companies. Thru our membership in CCGA our representative also sits on the board of the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC).

Through this participation we are kept abreast of the policies and direction being set for canola.

### Cash Advance Program:

The CCGA has administered cash advance programs since 1983 - which has grown to now cover over 20 crop types and to advance over \$200 million annually to 6000 Prairie growers. These funds are split evenly between the two current programs, the Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP) and the Advance Payments Program.

**CCGA has recently identified and prioritized key policy areas** and has established working committees to implement these policies:

- Grain Handling and Transportation: the CCGA supports objectives designed to achieve a more efficient, low cost, competitive commercial grain handling and transportation system
- International Trade: The CCGA supports trade liberalization
  - Support efforts to eliminate export subsidies.
  - Promote the elimination of trade distorting domestic support, national and international.
  - Promote unrestricted market access for Canadian agricultural commodities and their value-added products.
  - Work toward achieving tariff parity between canola seed and competing oilseeds and products in international markets.
  - Work toward a substantial reduction in tariff escalation between canola seed and its value-added products in international markets.
- Environment: CCGA supports efforts directed at protecting Canadian agricultural production in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.
- Biotechnology: The CCGA supports the science of biotechnology as it pertains to crop science. CCGA maintains that growers must be able to participate in the development and marketing of the products of biotechnology, and these regulations must remain science-based.
- Farm Income: The CCGA supports a farm income strategy that affords farmers the risk management tools, in a transparent manner, to carry on business without the need for ad hoc government aid programs.
- Pesticide Harmonization: CCGA supports the harmonization of international pesticide regulations and maximum residue limits.
- Food Safety: Canadian Farmers produce the safest food in the world and CCGA will support efforts directed at promoting and ensuring the continued production of a safe food supply.
- Canola Marketing: CCGA supports the right of Canadian growers to choose where and how to market their canola.
- Intellectual Property Rights: CCGA supports a balanced approach to the protection of intellectual property rights in Canada – one that encourages investment in Canadian agricultural research and development of new technologies, and delivers that technology and its benefits to growers at an affordable price.
- Biodiesel and Bioproducts: CCGA supports the development of effective policies that would encourage the production and use of biodiesel and bioproducts derived from Canadian canola.

CCGA has memberships in the Grain Growers of Canada, Canola Council of Canada, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, Biodiesel Association of Canada, Canadian Renewable Fuels Association, and Vegetable Oil Industry of Canada. It's involvement includes Government and Industry committees such as the Western Grains Standards Committee, National Safety Nets Advisory Committee, Canadian On Farm Food Safety and a number of Standards committees. They are well positioned to represent the growers of canola with government and industry. Growers need to remain engaged to ensure our views are heard.

## **Biotechnology**

CCGA worked in many forums promoting and advocating biotechnology over the course of the year. CCGA continued to build on its reputation as a credible source of factual information about the importance of technology to canola growers and the importance of maintaining science based criteria for the introduction and regulation of these new technologies.

The CCGA biotechnology committee met over the course of the year to discuss and strategize issues such as RIONAP, adventitious presence, labeling, own use imports, seed variety development, and the intellectual property aspect of farm saved seed.

## **Trade**

CCGA has become more active in the current WTO negotiations. CCGA became a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA).

CCGA President (Ross Ravelli) and Policy Analyst attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in order to observe on the behalf of growers who need increased market access and a reduction of trade distorting subsidies.

CCGA Trade Committee worked with the Federal Government on a plan to negotiate tariff parity for canola seed into China and work on this issue will continue into 2006.

\*For 2006 CCGA will be spending considerable time and resources on WTO Trade. This action will include meetings with all Western provincial Agriculture and Trade Ministers (at least twice) and meetings in Ottawa with federal ministers.

## **Biodiesel**

CCGA was a founding member of the Biodiesel Association of Canada.

BAC was critical in getting biodiesel issues raised at both the provincial and federal level. Recently BAC amalgamated with the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association to form one board to address all renewable fuels in Canada. We have high hopes that this group will be able to convince the Federal Government of the need for effective policies to enable an efficient and profitable renewable fuels strategy for Canada. This is of fundamental importance for canola as biodiesel is key to building and maintaining a vibrant canola industry.

CCGA retained the services of the George Morris Centre to conduct a study examining the potential economic benefits/ impact of Canadian biodiesel production on Canadian grains and oilseed growers. This study will be complete in early 2006.

\* Implementation of a Renewable Fuels Act – one that may involve Mandated inclusion rates and or incentives for the production of renewable fuels (ethanol and biodiesel), is a great opportunity for agriculture (and society) to diversify markets. This will lead to higher prices and a more stable Supply and Demand scenario, especially for canola.

**Canola Council of Canada (CCC)** is the group that encompasses all levels of the canola supply chain - from growers, seed developers, crushers, and exporters. Thru this group we are able to deal on issues that effect canola; labeling, trans fatty acids, GMO, market development and any number of other issues. The strength of this group is that it

gives everyone an understanding of the views and issues of the other sectors and allows us to make good informed decisions that are best for the whole industry not just individual components.

The BCGPA has partnered with the CCC in the “**Canola Export Ready**” program that was created to educate canola producers with specific information on farm practices that can impact trade.

### **Extension & Demonstration:**

#### **Great Web Site: [www. BCGRAIN.com](http://www.BCGRAIN.com)**

This is a site that has it all. This is a great start page for local farmers – it is also a great page for canola information – Canola Council of Canada and Grow Canola are but a couple of great sites to check out.

#### **News releases and articles**

“Frost takes the edge off bumper crops” news article Sept 9, 2005 The Mirror

“It’s been cold, but not too cold” news article Aug 22, 2005 The Peace River Block News

#### **Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:**

As the president of the Canadian Canola Growers Association, a majority of Mr. Ravelli’s trips to meetings were paid through that association.

Finances:	Budget	Actual
Income	\$11,500	\$6,999.08
Expenses	\$11,500	\$6,999.08

#### **Attachments:**

Finances - Contributions in kind summary, budget vs. actual income statement

Newspaper Article Sept 9, 2005 The Mirror

Newspaper Article Aug 22, 2005 The Peace River Block News

Canola Council of Canada Annual Report 2005-2006

BCPGA Members Update Fall/Winter