



Annual Report
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017

To

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

Council Members 2016-2017

Barry Follensbee, Chair

Irmgard 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 gfdc@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.

Funding priorities for the 2016-17 project year as shown below.



Council History

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 2015 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY

Total \$ 306,837

Projects Sponsored by BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2016-02	Professional Fees for Investment Structure	South Peace Grain Cleaning Co-operative
	Project Budget \$ 26,845	Levy Allocation \$ 10,000
		Project Levy Contribution 37 %
Objective	To set up a new, or expand on the existing, investment share structure for the membership to invest in and capitalize on the ongoing Rail Project.	
Status	In progress	

2016-03	CN Rail Service Negotiation	South Peace Grain Cleaning Co-operative
	Project Budget \$ 39,960	Levy Allocation \$ 15,000
		Project Levy Contribution 38 %
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reach an Agreement for Service with CN. To gain insight into the process of dealing with CN on the whole. 	
Status	In progress	

2016-04	Grain, Oilseed, Pulse Breed Development & Regional Trials	
	Project Budget \$ 359,400	Levy Funds Allocation \$ 179,700
		Levy Project Contribution 50 %
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide multi-year regional variety data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on newly registered varieties in order to provide producers information that would highlight the new varieties which show an advancement in yield, quality and/or disease tolerance relative to current varieties grown in the region; on new plant genetics in order to provide plant breeders the necessary information required to support registration of new varieties (specifically peas, western barley, western wheat and western oat varieties), which are appropriate for the Peace River region climate and growing conditions. to provide a tool (through the collection of this regional data) that will assist producers in the selection of new varieties which will best suit the individual needs and growing conditions of each farming operation, thereby reducing producer exposure to risk (meaning that the growers do not have to learn by trial and error with greater expense). to work with various plant breeders (preferably those with experience regarding Peace region growing conditions, for example, Dr. DJ Bing, pea breeder, AAFC Lacombe, AB) on the development of genetics to establish varieties with desirable traits (earlier maturing, higher yielding, disease tolerant etc.) appropriate for northern latitude short-season climates. to work with appropriate plant breeders in an effort to stay on the cutting edge of research and to support the development of truly northern crop-types as well as to even steer research in favor of support for northern crop varieties (currently, much of the pre-registration work on wheat, barley and oats is done in more southern areas and northern stations are needed to drive varietal selection appropriate for the climate and conditions in the Peace). 	



Status	Completed under levy budget at \$104,109. Year 2 advance approved for release.
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2016-05 Expanding the Peace Agricultural Gateway	
Project Budget	Levy Allocation
\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000
	Project Levy Contribution
	25 %
Objective	To address issues affecting producers in the BC Peace at local, provincial and national meetings. By participating in these meetings, the BC Grain Producers Association representative(s) have access to the involvement in developing new programs and initiatives that are significant to local agriculture producers. This project was splits into seven concerns that have been flagged as important to producers across the BC Peace Region: Biosecurity / Environment; Business Risk Management; Grain and Oilseed Markets; Member Connection and Public Awareness; Research; and, Transportation.
Status	Completed under budget at \$ 24,987.66

2016-06.01 2016 Director's Meeting Remuneration	
Project Budget	Levy Allocation
\$ 11,562	\$ 11,562
	Project Levy Contribution
	100 %
Objective	The objective of this project is 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	Completed under budget at \$7,752.85

2016-06.02 2016 Directors Support	
Project Budget	Levy Allocation
\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500
	Project Levy Contribution
	100 %
Objective	The objective of this project is to provide support staff to the BCGPA directors to relieve them of the day to day operations of the organization.
Status	Completed under budget at \$ 24,987.66

2016-06.03 2016 Membership Fees	
Project Budget	Levy Allocation
\$ 19,600	\$ 19,600
	Project Levy Contribution
	100 %
Objective	The objective of this project is to ensure the BCGPA has adequate representation on grain and oilseed committees at both a provincial and national level. It also ensures we have on committees that are involved in policy making decisions that will impact the grain and oilseed industry.
Status	Completed and project holdback released

2016-06.04 Information Seminar	
Project Budget	Levy Allocation
\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
	Project Levy Contribution
	100 %
Objective	The objective of this project is to provide a venue for information sharing and networking between industry, government, and grain and oilseed producers in the BC Peace region.



Status	Completed under budget at \$ 4,100.35
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2016-06.05	Research Directors Meeting Remuneration		
	Project Budget \$ 10,975	Levy Allocation \$ 10,975	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The objective of this project is 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	Completed under budget at \$ 2,116.23		

2016-07	Strategic Plan Development	North Pine Farmer's Institute	
	Project Budget \$16,200	Levy Allocation \$7,500	Project Levy Contribution 46 %
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current competitive situation and capabilities, both internal and external, to help consolidate activities and organize for profitable growth Envision the future desired state in terms of goals, people, processes, structure, products and services, markets, resources and technologies Identify the high-level strategies required to close the gaps and achieve 2 year horizon desired vision Allocate resources effectively and efficiently to execute the plan in a controlled manner, while minimizing risks Develop a detailed 12-month action plan (including specific activities, responsibilities and timelines) representing the first year roadmap for attaining the vision 		
Status	In progress		

Ongoing Levy Projects

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 2016 FORAGE SEED LEVY
Total \$ 34,750

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.

2016-10a	Information 2016	
Project Budget \$ 16,000	Levy Allocation \$ 4,000	Project Levy Contribution 25 %
Objective	To provide growers with the latest research information and how their levy dollars are being spent in a timely, effective manner.	
Status	Completed	

2016-10b	Operating and General 2016	
Project Budget Approx. \$15,000	Levy Allocation \$ 3,561	Project Levy Contribution 25 -50 %
Objective	To cover operating and general administrative costs	
Status	Completed	

2016-11a	Pest Monitoring in the Peace	
Project Budget \$110,000	Levy Allocation \$ 10,000	Project Levy Contribution 9 %
Objective	This is a project dedicated to pest management, including weeds, insects and diseases. Levy contribution insures 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. This project is a continuation of the Climate Action project completed March 2016.	
Status	Cross commodity project with IAF. Year 1 is complete and the project is on track.	

2016-11b	Innovative Management Practices for Resiliency	
Project Budget \$ 100,000	Levy Allocation \$ 1,250	Project Levy Contribution 1 %
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. 	
Status	Completed	

2016-11c	AgrilInnovation Program Industry-led Research and Development Stream	
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	Project Budget 66,548	Levy Allocation \$ 15,939	Project Levy Contribution 24 %
Objective	To fulfill the commitments with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for activities being done at Beaverlodge Research Farm.		
Status	This is a five-year project ending in 2018 with the federal government.		

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 2016-17 annual report is attached summarizing the projects supported for a total of \$108,803.

Western Grain Transportation 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. No WGTA funds were allocated in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

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, 2017. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2016 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.



BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council
PO Box 144, Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4G3

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 gidc@bcpeace.com.

Respectfully submitted,

BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council

Barry Follensbee, Chair.