



Annual Report April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

To

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

Council Members 2019-2020

Willy Rath, Chair

Irmgard Critcher, Vice Chair

Barry Follensbee

Trevor O'Dwyer

Sten Peterson

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. There is no deadline to submit applications, however the applicant must allow Council three months to review the proposal.

Grains, oilseed and pulse levies are redistributed into projects that meet the following objectives:

1. Benefit / Promote /Enhance the viability of the field crop industry as a whole or for commodities, in the BC Peace River Region.

2. Conduct or Support Research or Educational Programs in respect of the development and promotion of the BC industry and commodities.

Areas in which there is funding potential include infrastructure support, research, market development, technology transfer and promotion as described in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Areas of potential grain, oilseed and pulse crop levies funding

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.

GIDC Levies

The grain, oilseed and pulse levy is the original levy, whereby GIDC is to administer collection of the levy and evaluate proposals for funding. Council considers projects that foster and promote the field crops industry as outline above.

As of August 1, 2017, GIDC is administering the new British Columbia Wheat levy and the British Columbia Barley levy. These levies have industry support as shown by the results of a producer plebiscite conducted in 2016. The new provincial levies were initiated in response to the termination of the Western Wheat and Barley Check-off. GIDC’s role is to re-invest these levies in programs that develop the wheat and barely industries.



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 all grain, oilseeds and pulse crops grown in the BC Peace River Regional District when it is delivered. The BC Wheat Levy rate is an additional \$0.48/tonne on wheat. The BC Barley Levy is an additional \$0.56/tonne on barley. Producers contributing to the BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council have an opportunity to apply for a refund of the previous year's contribution by 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 2018 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY

Total \$ 251,960.50

Projects Sponsored by the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2019-01	2019 Director's Meeting Remuneration		
	Project Budget	Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
	\$ 16,816	\$ 8,408	50 %
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 \$ 6,374.93 GIDC funding		

2019-02	2019 Director's Support		
	Project Budget	Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
	\$ 38,000	\$ 19,000	50 %
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 \$ 36,277.96 GIDC Funding		

2019-03	2019 Membership Fees		
	Project Budget	Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
	\$ 22,700	\$ 11,350	50 %
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. The BC Grain Producers Association obtained memberships in the following organizations: BC Agriculture Council, Grain Growers of Canada, Cereals Canada, Canola Growers Association and the local Fort St John Chamber of Commerce. By having a strong presence within these organizations, the BCGPA is able to help influence policy development in the agriculture sector. Affiliations with these other organizations allow agriculture to present a united front and increase impact and success when fighting for policy change in the government arena.		



Status	Completed under budget at \$ 15,562.61 GIDC Funding
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2019-04	Information Seminars	
	Project Budget \$ 14,000	Levy Allocation \$ 7,000
		Project Levy Contribution 50 %
Objective	The objective of the <i>Information Seminars</i> project was to provide opportunities for information sharing and networking between industry, government and grain and oilseed producers in the BC Peace Region. The BCGPA hosted two speaker sessions; one in the summer and one in the early spring.	
Status	Completed under budget at \$ 6,045.13	

2019-05	Securing Opportunities and Advocating for Peace Agriculture	
	Project Budget \$ 114,015	Levy Allocation \$ 57,007.50
		Project Levy Contribution 50 %
Objective	The <i>Securing Opportunities and Advocating for Peace Agriculture</i> project was used to effectively address issues affecting BC Peace grain and oilseed farmers in a timely manner at regional, provincial and federal levels of government. BC Grain Producers Association board members and staff represented regional agriculture at meetings held through the year. The project was divided into six target subjects: Business Risk Management, Climate Awareness, Community Building and Public Trust, Marketing of Grain and Oilseeds, Research, and finally, Transportation.	
Status	Completed under budget at \$ 87,188.32	

2019-06	Small Plot Research	
	Project Budget \$ 257,500	Levy Funds Allocation \$ 128,750
		Levy Project Contribution 50 %
Objectives	<p>The objective of the <i>Small Plot Research</i> project was to ensure that the BC Grain Producers Association can continue to provide grain and oilseed data specifically within the BC Peace Region. This region is in a unique situation than counterparts across the prairies, with differing growing conditions and resources available. The research testing was completed at both the North Peace and South Peace sites in 2019, in co-operation with the Alberta Regional Variety Trials program ran through the Alberta Government and various prairie-wide co-operative programs. The total number of treatment plots completed in this project was 2,432.</p> <p>The various co-op trials that take place at the two research farms are instrumental in helping to determine growing patterns for pre-registered varieties for registration applications. By participating in these trials, the BCGPA is able further the current benchmark for crops grown commercially in the Peace Region and allow for the possibility of new crops to come into rotation in this region. These new varieties and crops could prove to be suitable for sustainable farming rotation and higher yields with lower inputs.</p>	
Status	Completed under levy budget at \$209,208.44	



Projects Sponsored by GIDC (Council Initiatives)

2019-09	GIDC Strategic Plan Development	
Project Budget \$ 20,445	Levy Funds Allocation \$ 20,445	Levy Project Contribution 100 %
Objectives	<p>The objective of the Strategic Plan Development is to establish a longterm strategic direction for the Council. This is a two year project with time billed directly to the project.</p> <p>By adopting a Strategic Plan, both the directors and staff will gain a clear understanding of Council's priorities, policies and responsibilities in their role. Building Council's foundation through a series of strategic planning workshops will enable productive discussions at regular business meetings, a smoother transition between Directors as terms are fulfilled and to respond appropriately to industry driven changes.</p>	
Status	Ongoing. The project is set to be completed in April 2021	

Closed Levy Projects

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	Closed. \$9,000 advance used to contribute to the overall project.	

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	Closed. \$13,500 advance used to contribute to the overall project	

BC WHEAT LEVY AND THE BC BARLEY LEVY FUND DISBURSEMENTS

Levy funds collected in 2018 and 2019 were pooled in the fiscal year to allow for accounting to be sorted out. Since 2017 the new BC Wheat and the new BC Barley Levies were disbursed according to the expired Western Wheat and Barley Check-Off rates. In 2019, Council determined that BC Wheat and BC Barley Funds will be allocated to projects similar to the method in which the Grain, Oilseed and Pulse Crops Levy is distributed. Council also approved a motion to adjust the administration cost to 10% on the gross revenue of the levies. The net BC Wheat Levy in 2019 was \$30,448 and the net BC Barley Levy in 2019 was \$11,035.



PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2018 FORAGE SEED LEVY

Total \$ 65,071

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.

2019-07	Research Projects	
	Project Budget	Levy Allocation
	\$ 57,169	\$ 57,169
		Project Levy Contribution
		100%
Objective	This project comprises the appropriate BC contribution to several research initiatives. The BC Branch of Peace Region Forage Seed Association participated in Pest Monitoring in the Peace (\$15,000), Weather Monitoring in the Peace (\$3,000), Meadow Bromegrass Integrated Management (\$1,250), Improving Productivity and Profitability of Forage Land (\$1,250), Forage Stands Starting Over: Do's and Don'ts (\$1,250), Agrolnnovation (\$25,861), COHA Cluster (\$9,558)	
Status	Completed	

2019-08	Communication Projects	
	Project Budget	Levy Allocation
	\$ 7,902	\$ 7,902
		Project Levy Contribution
		100%
Objective	The BC Forage Seed Advisory Committee applied to support the following communication and extension project with BC Forage Seed Levy funds: Operating and General (\$7,152) and the Canadian Forage Seed Conference (\$750),	
Status	Completed	

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. As of 2017, all available PRAD project funds were allocated. Earlier in 2019-20 Council instructed



the Coordinator to close the PRAD bank account as the 2019 audit was expected to finalize fund closure. However due to the timing of Covid-19, the Coordinator was unable to close the account before year-end.

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, 2020. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2019 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

Willy Rath, Chair.