



Annual Report
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

To

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

Council Members 2020-2021

Willy Rath, Chair

Irmgard Critcher, Vice Chair

Trevor O'Dwyer

Sten Peterson

Barry Follensbee – *Partial Term*

Brandon Funk – *Partial Term*

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 barley 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 2019 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY

Total \$ 401,601.00

Projects Sponsored by the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2020-01	2020 Advocacy and Outreach	
Project Budget \$ 123,035.00	Levy Allocation \$ 123,035.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The Advocacy and Outreach project attempted to address issues affecting BC Peace grain and oilseed farmers at regional, provincial, and federal levels of government. As you will notice from the budget amounts spent, COVID-19 took its toll on the ability of BC Grain Producers Association board members and staff to represent Peace area grains and oilseed producers at meetings in 2020 and the beginning of 2021.	
Status	Completed under budget at \$62,715.21 with GIDC funding.	

2020-02	2020 Director's Meeting Remuneration	
Project Budget \$ 16,816.00	Levy Allocation \$ 16,816.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The Director's Meeting Remuneration project was submitted to provide remuneration to directors of the BC Grain Producers Association to compensate them for their time while they are away from their own farm businesses to attend director's meetings.	
Status	Completed under budget at \$11,616.26 with GIDC Funding	

2020-03	2020 Director's Support	
Project Budget \$ 39,000.00	Levy Allocation \$ 39,000.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The Director's Support project was submitted to provide support to staff to shoulder the day-to-day operations of the BCGPA to help take the load off Association directors. Proper operation of an organization requires skill, time and continuity of key staff personnel, and this project provided these to the BCGPA, ensuring that the director's working load was at a minimum.	
Status	Completed under budget at \$34,536.70 with GIDC Funding	



2020-04		2020 Information Seminars	
Project Budget \$ 14,550		Levy Allocation \$ 14,550	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The Information Seminars project's aim was to provide an avenue for industry, government and grain and oilseed producers to share information and networking. It is important to all levels of grain and oilseed production for local producers to be aware of programs, changing farm policies, advancing production methods and current research opportunities and results.		
Status	Completed under budget at \$4,536.00 with GIDC Funding		

2020-05		2020 Membership Fees	
Project Budget \$ 29,200.00		Levy Allocation \$ 18,200.00	Project Levy Contribution 62 %
Objective	The goal of the Membership Fees project was to ensure that local producers had representation on grain and oilseed committees involved in agricultural policy decisions. The BC Grain Producers Association obtained memberships in the following organizations: BC Agriculture Council, Grain Growers of Canada, Cereals Canada & CIGI, Canola Growers Association, Investment Agriculture Association and the local Fort St John Chamber of Commerce.		
Status	Completed under budget at \$7,046.30 with GIDC Funding		

2020-06		2020 Small Plot Research	
Project Budget \$ 275,000.00		Levy Funds Allocation \$ 150,000.00	Levy Project Contribution 55 %
Objectives	The Small Plot Research project was submitted to ensure that the BC Grain Producers Association can continue to provide grain and oilseed data specifically within the BC Peace Region. It is essential that BC Peace producers have research that caters specifically to local conditions: soil, climate and pest pressures.		
Status	Completed under budget at \$103,218.10 with GIDC Funding		

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2019 WHEAT LEVY
Total \$ 11,000.00

Projects Sponsored by the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2020-05		2020 Membership Fees	
Project Budget \$ 29,200.00		Levy Allocation \$ 11,000.00	Project Levy Contribution 38 %
Objective	The goal of the Membership Fees project was to ensure that local producers had representation on grain and oilseed committees involved in agricultural policy decisions. The Wheat Levy contribution paid for membership on Cereals Canada & CIGI.		
Status	Completed on budget at \$11,000.00 with GIDC Funding		



PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2019 FORAGE SEED LEVY

Total \$ 84,823.00

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.

2020-08	Research Projects		
	Project Budget Approx. \$ 229,892.00	Levy Allocation \$ 68,723.00	Project Levy Contribution 30 %
Objective	This project comprises the appropriate BC contribution to several research initiatives. The BC Branch of Peace Region Forage Seed Association participated in the following research: Emerging Pests, Peace Region (\$15,000), Meadow Bromegrass Integrated Management (\$1,250), AgriScience/AgriInnovation Project (\$38,066), COHA Cluster – Creeping Red Fescue (\$8,782), Grassy & Broadleaf Weed Herbicide Screening Trial on Perennial Ryegrass (\$1,875), and Soil Carbon Quantification Project (\$1,250), as well as \$2,500 to support research that arises throughout the year.		
Status	Completed on budget at \$68,723.00		

2020-09	Communication Projects		
	Project Budget Approx. \$ 64,000.00	Levy Allocation \$ 16,000.00	Project Levy Contribution 25 %
Objective	The BC Forage Seed Advisory Committee applied to support the following communication and extension projects with BC Forage Seed Levy funds: Operating and General project, which included association memberships, meeting remuneration, administrative costs (\$14,900) and the Information project, which includes all our outreach communication activities including publications, website updates and Forage Seed News magazines (\$1,200).		
Status	Completed on budget at \$16,000.00		

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. The past few years, the Council has been in the process of closing the PRAD account. The account was officially closed in November 2020.

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, 2021. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2020 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 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