

PEACE RIVER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017

Summary of all projects

Actual Total Project Costs	\$557,642.00	100.0%
PRAD Trust Fund Share of Projects	\$99,113.25	17.8%
Industry Contribution (cash):	\$324,299.00	58.2%
Industry Contribution (In-kind):	\$27,100.00	4.9%

Administration Expenses (detailed below)

Accounting (Audit)	\$ 4,100.00
Advertising	\$ 192.00
Insurance	\$ 1,623.00
Office Expenses	\$ 378.00
Travel/Meetings/Phone	\$ 1,831.00
Directors Per Diem	\$ 3,979.00
Coordinator Fees	\$ 13,348.00
Administration Total	\$ 25,451.00
Total PRAD Trust Fund Projects Cost and Administration Expense	\$124,564.25

Large Project details

Sponsoring Organization	Project Title	Total project cost	PRAD Actual Contribution	Industry Contribution	Industry in kind	Amount Released from Trust
BC Grain Producers Assoc	Two year Grain, oilseed, Pulse Breed Development & Regional Trials	\$359,400.00	\$53,910.00	\$269,550.00	\$0.00	\$43,128.00
BC Grain Producers Assoc	Expanding the Peace Agricultural Gateway	\$100,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$27,000.00
B.C. Grain Producers Association	Recovery of 2015 Project Funds reported in 2016	\$0.00	-\$9,689.75			\$0.00
Total Large Project Costs		\$459,400.00	\$74,220.25	\$294,550.00	\$25,000.00	\$70,128.00

Short Term Projects Council Initiative Fund PRAD Consultation Committee

North Pine Farmer's Institute	Strategic Plan Development	\$16,200.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,100.00	\$6,750.00
Peace River Forage Association	Integrated Weed Management	\$28,250.00	\$7,390.00	\$2,960.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,651.00
Peace River Forage Association	Q Fever Awareness	\$5,700.00	\$2,850.00	\$1,350.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,565.00
Peace River Forage Association	Winter Workshop for Managing for Soil Health and Resiliency	\$20,400.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,400.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Peace River Forage Association	Ranching Profitability in the Peace River Region	\$27,692.00	\$2,153.00	\$5,539.00	\$0.00	\$1,937.70
Total Short Term Projects		\$ 98,242.00	\$ 24,893.00	\$ 29,749.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 22,403.70

Results Summary

Project Title	Purpose/Objective	Project Results and Outcomes
Two year Grain, oilseed, Pulse Breed Development & Regional Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide multi-year regional variety data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 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; o 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 • to work with various plant breeders 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). 	<p>This project is 2 years. The first year financials were accepted by Council. The project continues to be in progress.</p>
Expanding the Peace Agricultural Gateway	<p>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 split 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address Biosecurity, the BCGPA participated in discussions with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to extend the consultation deadline for the Imidacloprid review. Environmental issues centered around BC Pest management concerns on how to best tie in with the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network to provide a more accurate picture of crop pests in Western Canada. As the new policy framework is developed to define funding envelopes for federal dollars, the BCGPA was invited to participate in discussions on what a national environmental farm plan program could look like and how it could best be streamlined for cross commodity use. • To address Business Risk Management, a meeting for production insurance and AGRI Stability was held in Fort St John in March 2017 with representatives from the BCGPA and the Ministry of Agriculture. There was some movement on the seeding dates for canola announced by the Ministry; however, payments for AGRI Stability are still an average of 2 years behind. • For Grain and Oilseed Marketing, this project allowed the BCGPA to participate in discussions and meetings with various stakeholders regarding new trade markets that are opening up as well as issues that arose with current trade partners around concerns with chemical residues. • To address Member Connection and Public Awareness, the BCGPA facilitated communication between directors and various stakeholders who voice concerns raised from the membership to the BCGPA directors. Those concerns were then acted upon through the appropriate channels and resolutions reported directly back to producers. Newsletters were sent out to our members to update on current projects, committee updates and articles pertinent to Peace Area producers. A field tour and information session held at the North Peace research farm on June 25, 2016 had numerous producers and industry representatives in attendance. • To address Research, the BCGPA had a local presence and voiced regional concerns at the Prairie Grain Development Committee meetings in Winnipeg, MB in early 2017 during discussions for variety registration recommendations. Malcolm Odermatt represented the BCGPA on the board of the WGRF, which gives local producers a voice to a national research organization, which helps to promote and support a crop research network in Western Canada. • To address Transportation, the transportation committee met with representatives from Caribou Road Services and the Ministry of Transportation. Outgoing grain transportation continues to be a struggle in the Peace Region and this project allowed for representatives to discuss concerns on provincial and national levels with key players at both levels.

Strategic Plan Development	<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 	<p>The North Pine Farmers Institute needed to have the facility upgraded be able to meet the needs of Viterra and generate the required funds to pay back the financing already in place for the purchase of the land and the facilities. As repair and maintenance costs have exceeded original estimates, further sources of funding were required to upgrade the facility to handle the volume and commodities proposed by Viterra. As a result of negotiation the organization was successful in negotiating a \$300,000 grant and a \$300,000 loan in 2016 to address the upgrade requirements. The strategic plan identified a series of goals that will enable the Institute's future success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to maintain a profit margin of 35% on existing assets Identify additional agri-business opportunities To review and update the current board governance structure To establish Board committees to address future Institute needs To develop Institute Policies and Procedures to manage the Institute To develop a more inclusive community relations and marketing strategy To develop goals and objectives to support the strategy To develop a government relations strategy to maximize the impact of NPFI Initiatives. To build on the current relationships NPFI has established regionally, provincially and federally.
Integrated Weed Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local producers to develop integrated pest management strategy that includes livestock Monitor invasive plant response to grazing and how this changes based on weed plant growth stage Monitor plant response to grazing in combination with an additional mitigation strategy (i.e. seeding, fertilizer) Communicate share project information with local producers 	<p>Worked with 6 local producers (minimum requirement was 4) to accomplish integrated weed management goals. Cooperators induced: Tess Davidson, Sarah Rainey, Jodi Kendrew, Chuck & Pat Sutherland, Michael Nimitz and Charlie Lasser.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Pest Management sites included the grazing of new invaders on range (buckbrush, rosebush), grazing invasive plants on community pastures (Canada thistle, Bull thistle), seeding of grazed areas (riparian grazing) Pastures were all monitored before and after grazing to document grazing impacts. Photo and plant monitoring was done throughout the growing season, including plant height, weed growth stage, weed counts and infestation size There were challenges collecting fall data for grazing impacts due to the early snowfall There are several articles and project updates, written in the Forage First newsletter, which was published and circulated to a mailing list of over 220 in April 2016 and October 2016 (articles on file). There was also an article called "O Canada Thistle" written by Ann Grover in Beef in BC magazine, Sept Oct 2016 issue (circulation 1400). PRAD was acknowledged in articles and advertising. A Forage Fact sheet titled "Nutritional Value of Thistle" was circulated to members in the January 2017 newsletter and available for viewing at www.peaceforage.bc.ca There were also demonstrations and updates at several events including the summer tour & Feb 16 workshop (see more details in table below).
Q Fever Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the risks of Q Fever and get producers informed about the disease from a medical doctor and veterinarian team. Dr Houston, MD, is also prepared to take awareness one step further at this event and collect blood samples from willing volunteers to try to determine the prevalence of Q Fever in the BC Peace. Give participants information as to where to send animals blood samples for Q Fever detection, if desired. Communicate and share information with local producers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 20 people participated in the BC portion of this bigger project in the session that was held at Tower Lake Community Hall on June 10th. Dr Stan Houston, a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Alberta, works at the University of Alberta Hospital and is a specialist in infectious diseases and a Professor of Medicine and Public Health. He outlined the concern about Q Fever and how it can affect livestock and humans. Dr Ilona Houston, a DVM from Edmonton, spoke on management techniques to reduce the spread of the disease and how biosecurity protocols can play a role in disease management. Dr Christa Harder, a DVM with the Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic, addressed this illness from an animal perspective and in the local context. She left producers with instructions on what to do if they suspected Q Fever in their flocks. Each volunteer participant in the survey received a letter with their results from the testing for Q Fever. Q Fever prevalence and aggregate results from Dr. Stan Houston will be communicated out in a future newsletter article, when available. There are several articles and updates during this project, written in the Forage First newsletter, which was published and circulated to a mailing list of over 220 in September 2016. PRAD was acknowledged in all articles and advertising.

<p>Winter Workshop for Managing for Soil Health and Resiliency</p>	<p>1. Share with producers some of the findings of the project “Innovative Management Practices for Resiliency”.</p> <p>2. Bring Dr. Yousef Papadopoulos from AAFC, Nova Scotia to share his research on “The potential of new forage genetics for grazing systems” and “Maximizing production of birdsfoot trefoil in beef and sheep operations”.</p> <p>3. Host a number of smaller break-out sessions on a variety of topics related to producers decision making process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 60 people participated in the workshop that was held at Tower Lake Community Hall on February 1st. There were many new faces and new producers attending this event. • Dr. Yousef Papadopoulos shared his extensive research with maximizing forage production in both haying and grazing systems. He gave a second talk on the potential of improved beef & sheep operations by seeding birdsfoot trefoil. • Kelly Sidoryk gave a talk on decision making approaches through holistic management principles and valuing improvements to the soil and lands’ carrying capacity. • Ron Buchanan and Bill McGill shared what we have learned through the paired sampling with the soil quality field kits. • Rod Strasky and Matthias Loesekeken shared what they had learned in a couple of projects of how to understand crop response and field variability with the use of enhanced imagery from drone flights and photographs. • George Geldart and Julie Robinson compared the costs and benefits of various management practices in both annual and perennial cropping systems. • Keith Carroll, Lori Vickers and Andrew Clarke led a table top discussion of producers’ experiences with nonbloating legumes like birdsfoot trefoil, cicer milkvetch and sainfoin. • After these smaller group discussions at the 4 table top stations, there was further engaged participation with case study presentations from each of the 4 groups. It was great to see some of the new producers and faces heartily participating in this portion of the interactive day. • Feedback was collected and summarized. Many positive calls and emails followed the event. • There were several articles and updates during this project, written in the Forage First newsletter, which was published and circulated to a mailing list of over 220 in Winter 2016 (on file if required). PRAD was acknowledged in all articles and advertising. There continues to be interest in the “Resiliency Project” and the events hosted by the Peace River Forage Association. Bringing in these 2 keynote speakers is leading to future collaborations important for the forage and livestock industry.
<p>Ranching Profitability in the Peace River Region</p>	<p>The objective of this project is to develop mentorship opportunities and work with new forage and livestock producers to address concerns and challenges they are facing in the industry. This project would facilitate 3.5 days of learning where participants are analysing topics of interest for their logistical and economic feasibility to their own farming operation.</p>	<p>Overall there were over 25 participants for the Ranching Profitably in the Peace River Region. As opposed to the 3.5 day sessions initially proposed, the association was able to offer 7 part day sessions throughout January to March. All sessions were intended to bring mentees and mentors together to learn from each other on several different topics. This project offered mentors and mentees the opportunity to attend as many or as few sessions as they were interested in or able to attend. Sessions were primarily only a half a day long and held at the Tower Lake Hall, a central Peace Region location. The participants really wanted to hear from local experts on topics such as succession planning, grazing management, and costs of production. Some expertise was sought outside of the region on holistic management and succession planning (Kelly Sidoryk, a professional certified educator with Holistic Management International).An article has been published in the Spring 2017 Forage First newsletter. Sponsors were acknowledged at the sessions verbally and in the Forage First article. .The core group of forage and livestock producers that participated in this course have expressed desire to continue meeting and learning from each other. There were many positive comments about how this project enabled networking and connections to be made between farming operations. Whether they were new to farming or been doing it for years, everyone brought something to the table and shared with each other.</p>
<p>Recovery of Funds</p>	<p>Recovery of unused Prad Funds from 2015 projects recorded in 2016-17</p>	<p>The BCGPA reconciled completed PRAD projects and returned \$9,689.75</p>