



Annual Report
April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022
To

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

Council Members 2021-2022
Willy Rath, Chair
Irmgard Critcher, Vice Chair
Trevor O'Dwyer
Sten Peterson
Brandon Funk

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 (GIDC), at email address gidc@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 outlined 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 1/3 of one per cent (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 2020 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY

Total \$ 221,005.50

Projects Sponsored by the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2021-01	2021 Advocacy and Outreach	
Project Budget \$ 102,045.50	2021 Levy Allocation \$ 102,045.50	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The emphasis of the Advocacy and Outreach project is to ensure that BC Peace grain and oilseed producers have representation at all levels of local, provincial and national meetings on business risk management, public trust, transportation and marketing, environmental concerns, marketing and research in this proposal. By participating in these discussions, the BC Grain Producers Association representative(s) will contribute to the development of new programs and initiatives that are significant to local agriculture producers as well as continue to guide existing programs.	
Status	Project completed with \$102,045.50 of GIDC funds used.	

2021-02	2021 Operational Expenses	
Project Budget \$ 92,700.00	2021 Levy Allocation \$ 92,700.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	The Operational Expenses project covers the various operational expenses which allow the BC Grain Producers Association to operate and fulfill the mandate of the Association on behalf of members.	
Status	Project completed with \$92,700.00 of GIDC funds used.	

Projects Sponsored by the University of British Columbia (UBC)

2020-07	2020 Establishing a controlled-environment facility (CEF) at UBC, Vancouver for grain crops research		
Project Budget \$ 600,000.00		2021 Levy Allocation \$ 17,500.00	2021 Project Levy Contribution 3 %
Project Length July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022		Levy Allocation 2020-21: \$22,500.00 <u>Levy Allocation 2021-22: \$17,500.00</u> Total Levy Allocation: \$40,000.00	
Objective	The project seeks financial support to for infrastructure/capacity building at UBC, Vancouver which will be dedicated to grain crops research. Additionally, a portion of the total budget will be spent on crop surveys in BC Peace Region.		
Status	Project completed with final report pending.		

2021-04	2021 Crop Disease Surveys and Characterization		
	Project Budget \$ 93,530.00	2021 Levy Allocation \$ 8,760.00	Project Levy Contribution 9 %
Objective	The project seeks financial support for pathogen (mainly wheat and barley stripe rust) populations' characterization (virulence and molecular) from BC Peace region. The crew from 'Crop Pathology and Genetics' team will conduct crop surveys over 9-10 days in months of July-August and collect field samples, identify pathogen races and genetic lineages. Additionally, the team will participate in extension activities and field days organized by BC-GIDC and BC Grain Producers Association.		
Status	Project work continues with final report due July 2022.		

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2020 WHEAT LEVY

Total \$ 15,000.00

Projects Sponsored by the University of British Columbia (UBC)

2021-03	2021 Controlled Environment Facility for Crop Pathology and Genetics Research		
Project Budget \$ 90,362.50		2021 Levy Allocation \$ 7,500.00	2021 Project Levy Contribution 8 %
Project Length April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2023		Levy Allocation 2021-22: \$7,500.00	
		<u>Levy Allocation 2022-23: \$7,500.00</u>	
		Total Levy Allocation: \$15,000.00	
Objective	The project seeks financial support for establishing a cereal research infrastructure facility. Due to unforeseen circumstances, additional funds were required to ensure the completion of project 2020-07.		
Status	Project work continues with interim report pending.		

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2020 BARLEY LEVY

Total \$ 15,000.00

Projects Sponsored by the University of British Columbia (UBC)

2021-03	2021 Controlled Environment Facility for Crop Pathology and Genetics Research		
Project Budget		2021 Levy Allocation	2021 Project Levy Contribution
\$ 90,362.50		\$ 7,500.00	8 %
Project Length April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2023		Levy Allocation 2021-22: \$7,500.00 <u>Levy Allocation 2022-23: \$7,500.00</u> Total Levy Allocation: \$15,000.00	
Objective	The project seeks financial support for establishing a cereal research infrastructure facility.		
Status	Project work continues with interim report pending.		

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2020 FORAGE SEED LEVY

Total \$ 84,270.00

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.

2021-05	Research Projects	
Project Budget Approx. \$ 204,792.00	2021 Levy Allocation \$ 68,264.00	Project Levy Contribution 33 %
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 (\$32,109), COHA Cluster – Creeping Red Fescue (\$655), Grassy & Broadleaf Weed Herbicide Screening Trial on Perennial Ryegrass (\$3,000), Soil Carbon Quantification Project (\$1,250), SARDA: Calvin Yoder (\$10,000), Forage Seed Sequencing (\$2,500), as well as \$2,500 to support research that arises throughout the year.	
Status	Completed on budget at \$68,264.00.	

2021-06	Communication Projects		
Project Budget		2021 Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
Approx. \$ 48,018.00		\$ 16,006.00	33 %
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 (\$14,206), the Information project, which includes all our outreach communication activities including publications, website updates and Forage Seed News magazines (\$1,450), and an Events project which includes conducting a small field day in the BC Peace (\$350).		
Status	Completed on budget at \$16,006.00.		



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, 2022. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2021 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 gidc@bcpeace.com.

Respectfully submitted,
BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council

Willy Rath, Chair