



Annual Report April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

To

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

Council Members 2025-2026

Rick Kantz, Chair
Alexander Breunig, Vice Chair
Sten Peterson
Amias Dirks

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.

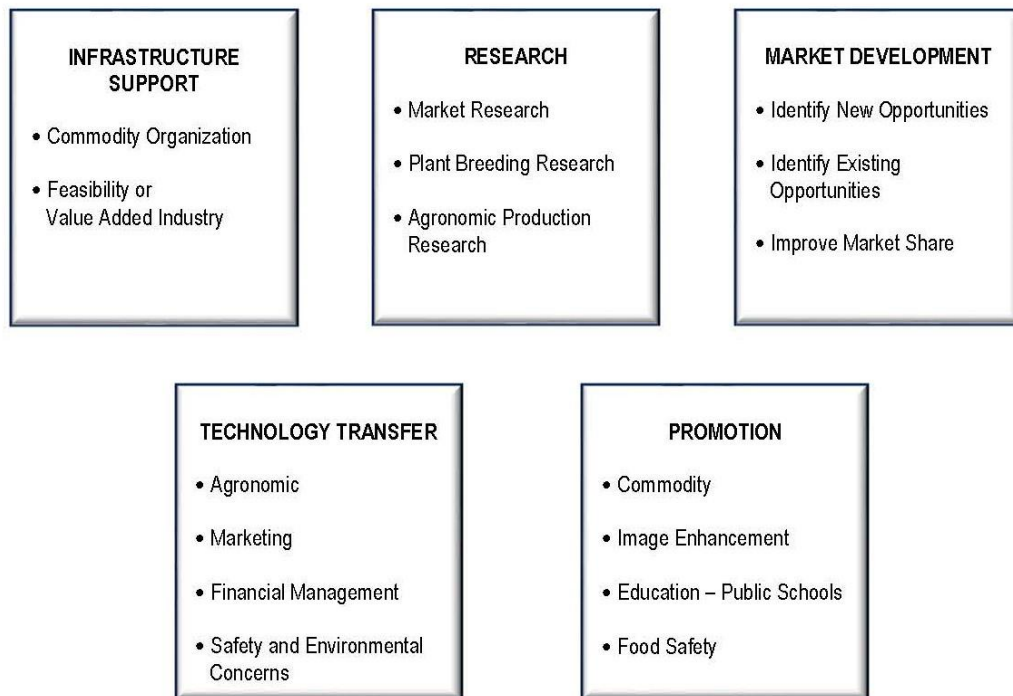


Figure 1: Areas of potential grain, oilseed and pulse crop levies funding

COUNCIL HISTORY

In 1989 the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (now known as Agriculture and Food) 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, council members were appointed by the Minister. Pursuant to Bill 52, the Minister of Agriculture 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 Food and previously, a representative from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

GIDC LEVIES

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

As of August 1, 2017, the 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. The GIDC’s role is to re-invest these levies in programs that develop 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, the 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 2024 GRAIN, OILSEED & PULSE LEVY

Total \$ 206,590.00

Projects Sponsored by the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

2025-01	Advocacy, Outreach and Public Trust		
	Project Budget	2025 Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
	\$ 305,150.00	\$ 156,590.00	51 %
Objective	The key objective of this project is to address issues affecting grain producers in the BC Peace in a timely and effective manner. Regional grain and oilseed producers look to the BCGP to lead the way and are counting on the association to be proactive in its approach to dealing with agriculture matters and bringing attention to these issues, locally and outside the region. The project has been divided into six issues that have been identified as important to producers across the BC Peace Region: Business Risk Management, Climate Awareness, Community Building and Public Trust, Marketing of Grain & Oilseeds, Research and Innovation, and Transportation (Roads and Rail).		
Status	Project completed under budget with \$140,931.00 of GIDC funds used.		

2025-02	Agricultural Research Hub		
	Project Budget	2025 Levy Allocation	Project Levy Contribution
	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	75 %
Objective	The Agricultural Research Hub (ARH) will serve as a centralized hub for research, housing laboratory supplies and equipment and providing a platform for collaboration with other agricultural associations. The ARH will play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and sustainable agricultural practices.		
Status	Project completed under budget with \$37,783.08 of GIDC funds used.		



PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2024 WHEAT LEVY

Total \$ 43,125.00

Projects Sponsored by the University of Alberta

2024-03	Breeding Field Ready CWRS Wheat Varieties for the Peace Region		
	Project Budget \$ 227,195.00	2025 Levy Allocation Year 2: \$ 43,125.00	Project Levy Contribution 19 %
Objective	The University of Alberta Wheat Breeding program is an established program focused on developing wheat varieties for western Canadian growers, particularly the northern Parkland region. By end of 2028, the intent is to develop at least three field-ready CWRS varieties for the Peace Region with 10-15% higher grain yield than "Carberry", "CDC Go", and "AAC Viewfield" with 2-5 days earlier maturity, strong straw with strong gluten, good milling, and end-use quality. Emphasis is on early maturity and resistance to stripe rust and resistances to leaf and stem rust, common bunt, leaf spotting diseases and Fusarium Head Blight. Emphasis will be on reducing height and increasing straw strength similar to 'Carberry' but with better lodging tolerance.		
Status	5 Year Project. Interim report completed with \$43,125.00 of GIDC funds used.		

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 2024 FORAGE SEED LEVY

Total \$ 98,133.00

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.

2025-03	Research Projects		
	Project Budget \$ 80,358.00	2025 Levy Allocation \$ 80,358.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	This project comprises the appropriate BC contribution to research initiatives. The PRFSA worked with forage seed associations from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba to host the 8th Canadian Turf and Forage Seed Conference in Grande Prairie to bring together growers and industry throughout Canada and discuss opportunities and issues in turf and forage seed production. (\$2,829.00); Peace Living Lab (\$7,500); AgriScience/AgriInnovation Project (\$70,029.00).		
Status	Completed on budget at \$80,358.00		

2025-04	Communication Projects		
	Project Budget \$ 17,775.00	2025 Levy Allocation \$ 17,775.00	Project Levy Contribution 100 %
Objective	This project includes such costs as: joint membership in BC Agriculture council with the BC Grain Producers Association; directors' remuneration for meetings, travel and per diems for directors' time away from their businesses; PRFSA's annual bookkeeping, accountant and legal expenses. This request is based on covering the BC growers' share of these items.		
Status	Completed on budget at \$ 17,775.00.		



FINANCIAL REPORTS

The BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council engages an accounting firm, Eclipse 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, 2026. The grain and forage levy year is for the calendar 2025 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 B.C. and Alberta forage seed levies. The B.C. 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 acknowledgments, 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

Rick Kantz, Chair