



Canadian Seed Growers' Association

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





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\* Audited Financial Statements for 2022–2023 and Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting are available online at [seedgrowers.ca](https://seedgrowers.ca).

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Seed growers understand the critical importance of delivering a consistent, top-quality product. You live among your customers and intimately understand their needs. Your relationships are built on trust, and you take great pride in what you do.*

CSGA is made up of people like you, who want to step up to better the business of seed and provide a solid system for the future generation of producers.

We know the needs of the seed sector are always changing. I have the utmost confidence in our Association's dedication, ability, and unwavering commitment to proudly work closely with growers and leaders across the country ensuring Canada's food is safe, our agricultural supply chain is secure, and our farmers have the utmost confidence in the seed they purchase and plant.

We continue to invest in new technology and initiatives to better and streamline our seed system. We are committed to our vision and recommendations for Seed Regulatory Modernization. We must keep working together to ensure that the seed sector and Canadian agriculture continues to thrive and prosper.

CSGA's success is built on strong relationships and shared goals, and we remain committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability.

Over the last year, we have achieved significant milestones and made substantial progress towards our goals.

We are here to support you in producing the highest quality seed. Your hard work and expertise mean that farmers across the country have access to the best possible seed for their crops.

I know that our vision is attainable – if we continue to work together and share our knowledge and experiences, we will have a positive impact on the communities we serve, the next generation of seed growers, and the seed certification system. Are you with me?

Thank you to all seed growers and stakeholders for their continued support. Your participation and support help shape the future of our Association and the entire seed sector.

Sincerely,

**Dale Connell**  
President



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*As we approach the end of another successful year, I am pleased to present our annual report, summarizing our achievements, challenges, and vision for the future of CSGA.*

The CFIA's Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) consultation process has been, and will continue to be, CSGA's top priority.

We have a vision for a strong, industry-led, government enabled seed certification system—where CSGA steps up and takes on a greater leadership role as the main administrator of Canada's seed certification system. This will be to the benefit of not only the entire Canadian seed sector, but to all Canadians, by securing the public good of a national seed certification system that creates a level playing field for all participants.

Throughout the year, we have actively engaged with policymakers and key members of government, including the Minister of Agriculture, and the President of the CFIA. We've focused on the importance of Certified seed, and that the entire Canadian agri-food sector depends on a reliable supply of high-quality, identity-assured seed. We've told them CSGA is ready and able to do more to deliver and promote a flexible, responsive, and cost-effective seed certification system supporting Canadian agriculture.

Additionally, CSGA appeared as a witness at the Senate of Canada's Standing Committee on Agriculture & Forestry Committee as part of the study of Bill S-6, an Act respecting Regulatory Modernization. CSGA stated its support of the amendment relative to CSGA's role in the *Seeds Act* and the spirit of the regulatory modernization initiative, which is to remove barriers and support innovation and economic growth.

Of course, there's more than just SRM on CSGA's plate! We continue to strive to be the world's best seed crop certification agency.

By making key strategic investments, we've continued to build a strong foundation for the future growth of the Association. With the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriAssurance funding, this year saw the beginning of four key initiatives—the review and development of new Breeder seed requirements, a digital Breeder and Select seed tag pilot project, a variety management console, and a Certified seed promotion campaign.

Each of these projects speaks directly to the goals of the CSGA 2.0 Business plan and puts us well ahead of our original timelines. Thank you to everyone involved in these initiatives.

We continue to support current and next generation seed growers with training and development opportunities. This year, we saw the full launch of *CSGA Learn*, our online seed learning platform. I am very proud to say that everyone involved in the Canadian seed sector now has access to one-of-a-kind education resources to position them for success.

Another significant achievement this year was our new National-Branch Affiliation Agreement. This was a huge milestone for CSGA, our provincial branches, and the Canadian seed sector. The agreement signals the commitment to joint work planning, education, advocacy, and communication—all with the collective goal of improving Canada's seed certification system.

And while delivering all of this, I'm proud to say that this year we certified 1.24M acres of seed for 71 different crop kinds of more than 2,000 varieties produced by Canadian seed growers.

This is no small feat. I wish to thank the Board of Directors for their leadership and direction. Thank you to our CSGA staff, who work tirelessly to implement innovative solutions and streamline processes.

I look forward to 2023 and beyond. I know that with our strong vision and commitment to it, we are leading the sector toward a place of success.

**Doug Miller**  
Executive Director







# ABOUT CSGA

## WHAT WE DO

*Founded in 1904, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) is Canada's national seed crop certification authority, delegated under the federal Seeds Act and Seeds Regulations to deliver Canada's seed crop certification system. CSGA develops and manages certification standards and procedures to ensure the varietal purity and genetic identity of pedigreed seed crops and Breeder and Select status seed for all agricultural field crops, except potatoes.*

*CSGA is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of seed grower Directors, provincial government Advisors, academic advisors, and other sector experts. With branches across Canada, CSGA, its branches, and the Canadian government work closely to fulfill our pedigreed seed certification mandate.*



Through seed crop certification, CSGA **provides reliable assurance of quality and genetic identity of seed.** Certified seed provides Canadian farmers, value chains and food manufacturers with assured seed quality and genetic identity they can trust.



CSGA **works closely with the sector to ensure standards are up to date, internationally harmonized, and incorporate new technology.** We foster trust, traceability, and transparency through the seed crop certification process—from the production of initial Breeder seed through the pedigreed generations to Certified seed.



As Canada's largest seed organization, we **represent approximately 3,000 seed growers and 2,500 unique seed businesses,** ranging in size from small family seed farms to large seed companies.



CSGA **supports seed technology innovation and procedures and policies** that support the Canadian seed certification system domestically and abroad. As a country that relies heavily on global trade, we represent and support Canada's interests at the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and support the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) at the OECD Seed Schemes.



CSGA **provides professional development services** to increase the knowledge and skillset of the sector, accredit seed growers, and professional recognition for plant breeders. These services help ensure that the Canadian seed sector is equipped with the people, skills and knowledge required for a next-generation seed system.



CSGA **promotes Canada's seed certification system and the importance of our seed sector**—while upholding our organization's core values of integrity, accountability, transparency, collaboration, and respect.

## WHY WE DO IT

The entire Canadian agriculture sector relies on Certified seed. As an organization, we partner with the government to provide a public good for all Canadians. It is all about ensuring Canada's food is safe and our agriculture supply chain is secure.

Our farmers have the utmost confidence in the seed they purchase and plant because our seed growers produce varieties of high-quality, identity-assured seed essential to a sustainable agri-food sector. They are the heart of the Canadian seed sector.

A seed's quality and integrity directly affect food production and ultimately, food security. Clean, pure seed is the foundation of Canada's reputation as a trusted supplier of high-quality, consistent agricultural products when demand for safe and healthy food is growing.

## Did you know?



bites of food  
consumed  
around the  
world begin  
with seed

# Our Core Principles

## OUR MISSION

*Represent and support our members, advance the seed sector and with our partners, deliver and promote a flexible, responsive, and cost-effective seed certification system in Canada.*

## OUR VISION

*CSGA is an innovative, science-based organization committed to supporting a competitive Canadian agriculture sector as a respected global leader in seed quality assurance and genetic traceability.*

## OUR VALUES

*Responsibility, Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Collaboration, and Respect.*



# WHY SEED MATTERS

*Seed matters because it is an essential input to agriculture and the global food system. Seed is the starting point for the vast majority of the world's crops, and it plays a critical role in ensuring food production, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, agricultural sustainability, and economic development.*

As the first link in our agri-food chain, the vital role of Canadian seed growers and seed businesses cannot be underestimated. Seed quality, varietal purity and genetic identity assurance, and seed innovation hugely impact the Canadian economy.

CSGA deeply values the years of service and dedication of our members. They contribute to the betterment of the Canadian seed sector, Canadian agriculture, and their local communities.

## The Economic Impact of Canadian Seed\*

Seed sector economic impact  
**\$ ~\$6.0 billion**

Annual seed sales of  
**\$ ~\$3.7 billion\*\***

**\$ ~\$205 million**  
invested in plant breeding  
and research

Canadian seed exports of  
**\$ \$851 million\*\*\***

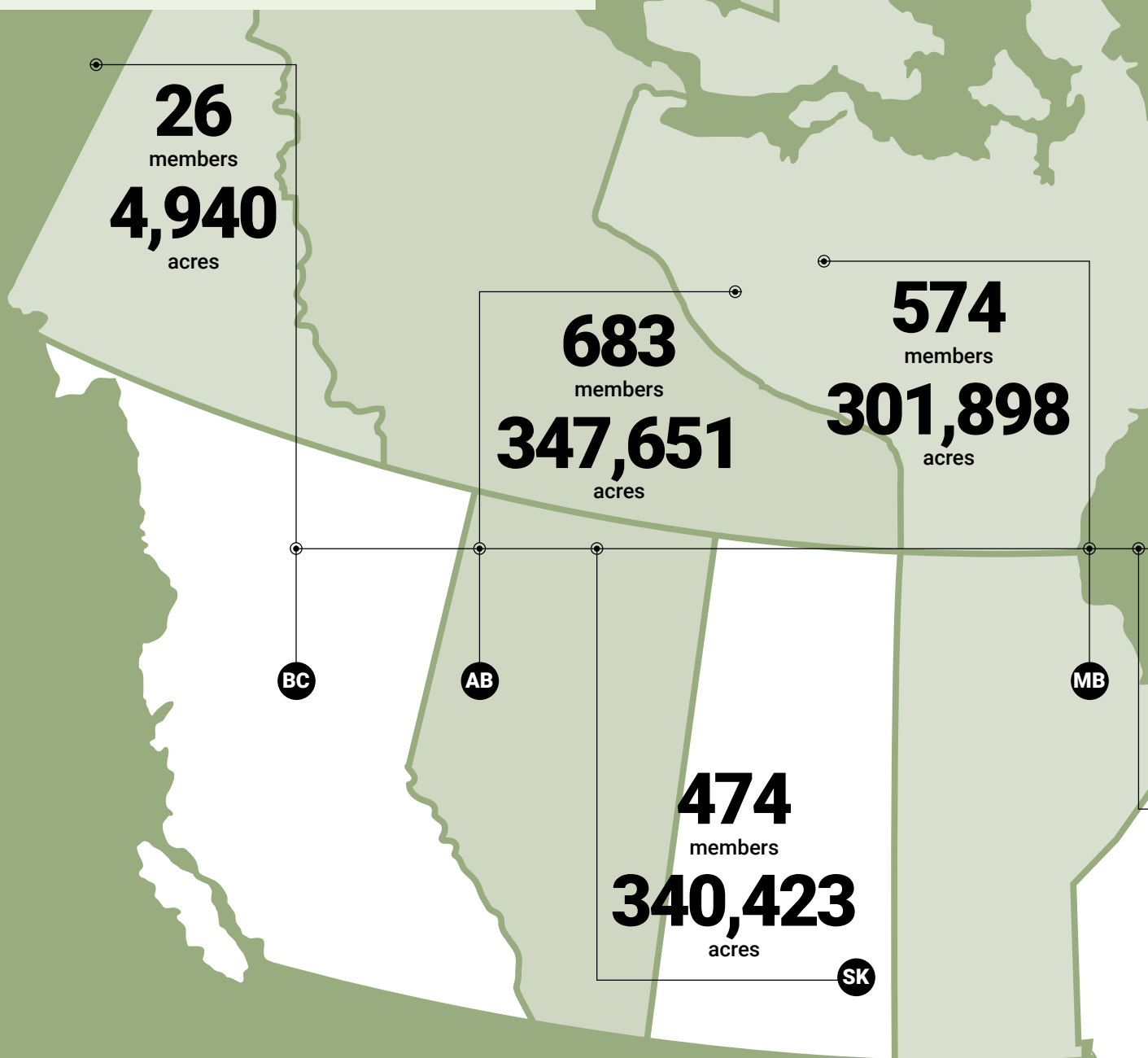
63,622 people employed  
with a value of  
**\$ ~\$2.26 billion**  
in wages and salaries \*\*\*

\* 2018  
\*\* 2022  
\*\*\* 2020–2021

## MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

The diversity of Canada's seed growers reflects the many different markets and demands for seed products. Ranging in size and scope from independent family farms to large seed companies, some may focus on producing seeds for specific agricultural or horticultural purposes, such as forage crops, while others may specialize in varieties for specific climate conditions, such as drought-resistant crops.

Canada's seed growers are committed to Canada's seed system, its standards, and methods of producing clean, true-to-variety, high-quality seed. All of which supports their reputation of providing a field-to-fork value chain rooted in identity assurance.





CSGA  
2022

**2,983**  
members  
**1,247,836**  
acres

**32**  
members  
**485**  
acres

INT

**7**  
members  
**2,231**  
acres

NB

**513**  
members  
**80,465**  
acres

**13**  
members  
**1,358**  
acres

PE

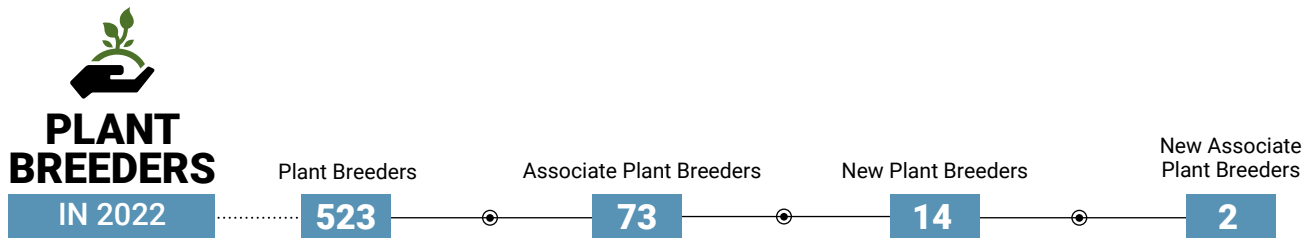
**661**  
members  
**168,385**  
acres

ON

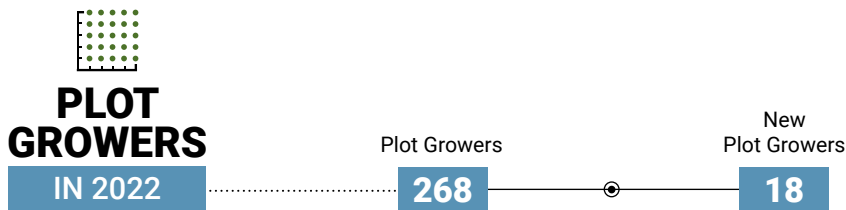
QC

Maritime  
Provinces

## CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeders in 2022



## CSGA-Accredited Plot Growers in 2022



### INSIGHT ON ACREAGE TRENDS

In 2022, CSGA certified 1,247,836 acres of seed, including 12,587 fields and 2,389 plots. The CSGA Seed Crop Certification Acreage and Membership Report provides a detailed breakdown of CSGA-certified seed crop production levels and membership numbers for the last seven years.

Overall, acreage decreased by 6,036 acres in 2022 from 2021, with the biggest declines in barley, fababeans, lentils, and wheat. Of the 11 crop kinds that saw increases, oats, canola, and alfalfa were the highest gains. Due to the 2022 floods, Manitoba saw the greatest loss at nearly 18,000 acres, while Alberta and Ontario saw increases of nearly 12,000 and 5,000 acres, respectively.

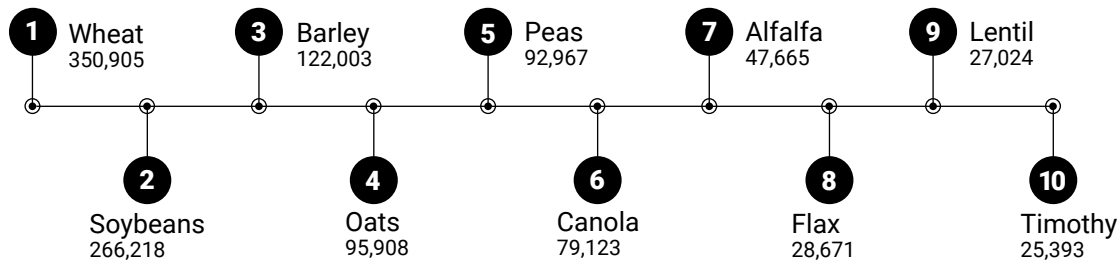
### Annual Plot Totals (2022–2020)

PLOT TYPE	2022	2021	2020	CHANGE (+/-)*
Breeder	830	772	1,023	58
Foundation	56	54	63	2
Probation	50	109	87	-59
Select	1,453	1,600	1,579	-147
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>-146</b>

CROP STATISTICS

Top Ten Pedigreed Crops by Total Acreage in 2022

**TOP  
10**  
IN 2022



Increased Acreage from 2021

Triticale (155%) <b>5,787</b>	Mustard (125%) <b>4,387</b>
Canola (21.7%) <b>79,123</b>	Oats (21.7%) <b>95,908</b>
Wheatgrass (18%) <b>5,743</b>	



Decreased Acreage from 2021

Fababean (51%) <b>7,253</b>	Hemp (31%) <b>3,835</b>
Lentil (23.6%) <b>27,024</b>	Buckwheat (19%) <b>1,115</b>
Bean (19%) <b>3,706</b>	







# 2022 IN REVIEW

*Having marked its 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary, CSGA made significant progress in promoting and advancing the Canadian seed sector in 2022. We've highlighted the accomplishments of each of our departments in the subsequent pages, providing insight into CSGA's operations, best practices, contributions of employees and cross-functional collaboration.*

One of the best examples of our collaboration efforts is the new **National-Branch Affiliation Agreement**. After working together for decades on behalf of Canadian seed growers and the national seed certification system, CSGA announced a new affiliation agreement with its regional branches, the Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association, the Manitoba Seed Growers' Association, the Ontario Seed Growers' Association, les Producteurs de semences du Québec and CSGA's Maritime Branch. The affiliation agreement is the first to establish clear roles and responsibilities for all and formalize the arrangements as an inclusive and service-oriented approach.



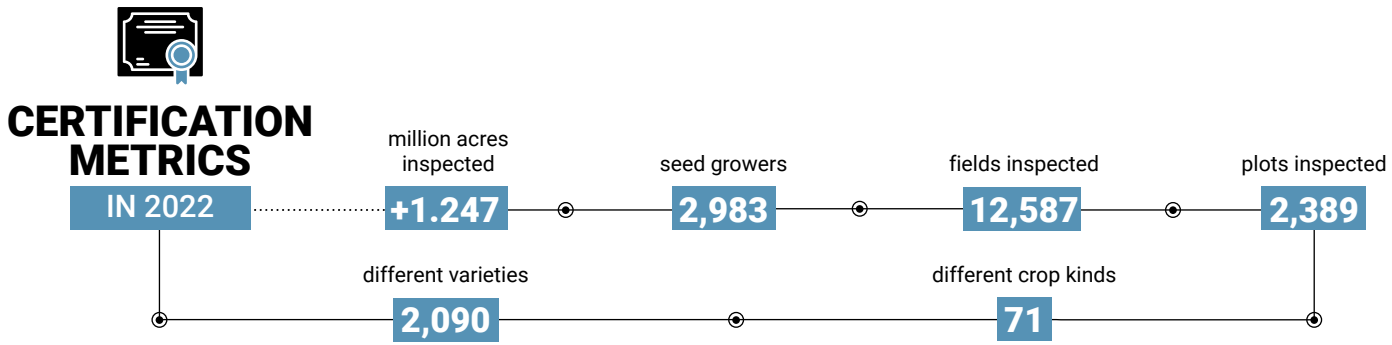
## CERTIFICATION

Seed certification empowers our Canadian farmers with the trust and confidence they need to grow healthy and productive crops. They can trust in the varietal purity of Certified seed because the process is supported by CSGA standards, third party certification and government regulations designed to protect the integrity of the seed supply. They can trust in the traceability of Certified seed all the way back to the original Breeder seed, thanks to CSGA's quality assurance systems.

Canada's seed growers and seed certification system are the foundation of the Canadian seed sector, essential to a sustainable and innovative Canadian agri-food sector. Seed crop certification is delivered through a unique public-private relationship with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). We work closely with the CFIA to deliver and improve seed certification.

**The size and scope of our certification efforts make CSGA one of the world's largest and most modern seed crop certification bodies. We accomplish this because of our digital-first mindset.**

Each year, the number of applications and documentation CSGA processes varies based on weather conditions, market demands, and regulatory changes. In 2022, CSGA processed applications and documentation for 1.247 million acres of 71 different crop kinds of more than 2,000 varieties produced by Canadian seed growers!



## 2022 Inspected Acreage by Province

CROP KIND	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	INT
ALFALFA						9,216	16,825	21,624		
BARLEY	540		596	6,998	3,278	13,298	44,613	52,130	550	
BEAN					2,485	1,053	153	15		
BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL						2,407	170			
BROMEGRASS						382	2,374	3,356	536	
BUCKWHEAT				566		549				
CANARYGRASS							2,365			
CANOLA					99	28	714	77,797		485
CHICKPEA							3,905	440		
CLOVER						217	2,521	976		
FABABEAN						308	1,835	5,110		
FESCUE						6,872	6,918	4,292	325	
FLAX						5,123	17,986	5,562		
HEMP				328	443	1,219	893	950	2	
HYBRID CORN					18,835					
LENTIL							23,360	3,664		
MUSTARD							1,227	3,160		
OATS	103		1,265	12,814	3,455	31,947	33,621	12,322	383	
PEAS	134		22	294		16,745	37,719	37,786	267	
RYE				651	39	2,055	1,118	3,236		
RYEGRASS						10,165	1,255	3,485		
SOYBEANS			117	41,858	121,830	102,278	135			
TIMOTHY						7,011	5,830	10,821	1,731	
TRITICALE				222	173	140	1,174	4,078		
WHEAT	582		231	16,733	17,748	90,427	131,528	93,124	532	
WHEATGRASS						88	1,988	3,052	615	
MINOR CROP					0	371	195	672		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>80,465</b>	<b>168,385</b>	<b>301,898</b>	<b>340,423</b>	<b>347,651</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,565</b>	<b>81,674</b>	<b>163,686</b>	<b>319,491</b>	<b>341,360</b>	<b>335,669</b>	<b>5,561</b>	<b>1,148</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>84,173</b>	<b>170,481</b>	<b>305,484</b>	<b>340,621</b>	<b>353,966</b>	<b>4,705</b>	<b>2,368</b>
<b>*(-/+)</b> Change	<b>-361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,334</b>	<b>-1,209</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>-17,592</b>	<b>-937</b>	<b>11,983</b>	<b>-621</b>	<b>-663</b>



## 2022 Inspected Acreage by Year

CROP KIND	2022	2021	2020	CHANGE (+/-)*
ALFALFA	47,665	41,002	42,732	6,663
BARLEY	122,003	135,444	129,190	-13,442
BEAN	3,706	4,578	4,574	-873
BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL	2,577	2,391	2,247	186
BROMEGRASS	6,648	6,290	7,206	358
BUCKWHEAT	1,115	1,382	932.89	-267
CANARYGRASS	2,365	2,856	1,312	-490
CANOLA	79,123	64,981	65,654	14,142
CHICKPEA	4,345	4,473	3,070	-127
CLOVER	3,714	4,093	4,330	-379
FABABEAN	7,253	14,859	9,820	-7,605
FESCUE	18,407	18,375	16,991	32
FLAX	28,671	31,649	23,224	-2,979
HEMP	3,835	5,559	4,763	-1,724
HYBRID CORN	18,835	16,258	16,224	2,576
LENTIL	27,024	35,403	38,802	-8,379
MUSTARD	4,387	1,942	2,049	2,445
OATS	95,908	78,794	77,306	17,114
PEAS	92,967	96,372	100,925	-3,405
RYE	7,099	6,794	5,518	305
RYEGRASS	14,905	17,158	19,418	-2,253
SOYBEANS	266,218	266,335	277,142	-117
TIMOTHY	25,393	29,857	29,816	-4,464
TRITICALE	5,787	2,269	5,836	3,518
WHEAT	350,905	358,311	368,944	-7,406
WHEATGRASS	5,743	4,856	7,135	887
MINOR CROP	1,238	1,591	1,386	-353
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,247,836</b>			
<b>2021</b>		<b>1,253,872</b>		<b>-6,036</b>
<b>2020</b>			<b>1,266,547</b>	<b>-12,675</b>
<b>*(-/+) Change</b>				



## POLICY AND SRM

Seed policy plays a critical role in ensuring the safety, quality, and sustainability of our agricultural systems. By facilitating the development and distribution of new seed varieties, seed policy helps to ensure the long-term viability of our food supply. Seed regulations also impact our members and stakeholders on a daily basis.

Our priorities are efficiency, transparency, and trust—enhancing our governance, strengthening connections along the value chains, and ensuring key stakeholders like you are engaged in a next-generation seed system.

Over the year, the CFIA's Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) has been top of mind for CSGA. We believe Certified seed in Canada has a bright future. This regulatory review is an opportunity for all of us to renew the seed certification system for the betterment of the entire Canadian agriculture sector.

The CFIA's SRM process has been a co-development approach bringing the seed sector, stakeholders and end-users together to envision a next-generation seed system. CSGA, our regional Branches and many members have also played a significant role in the SRM process.

This year, the Task Team recommendations were made available. We were very pleased to see strong alignment between the SRM Task Team recommendations and CSGA's vision for a next-generation seed system. However, we must keep working together to ensure that the seed sector and Canadian agriculture will continue to thrive and prosper.

**Through SRM, CSGA aspires to be the main administrator of Canada's seed certification system—building upon our unique public-private partnership with the Government of Canada.**

You can review CSGA's SRM policy positions from the [CSGA website](#).

## STANDARDS

The standards development process is a core function of the Association. CSGA is proud to say that Canada's seed standards are developed by the seed sector for the seed sector through an efficient process that encourages broad stakeholder participation and is agile and able to respond to the seed sector's needs.

While Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) has consumed much of our thoughts, we have not slowed down in our mission as Canada's national seed certification authority to prioritize incorporating new technologies and creating and implementing internationally harmonized, science-based standards.

**We continued to modernize and promote our internationally renowned standard development process, which is inclusive, with representatives across the value chain at every step.**

Our standards are cooperatively developed by our Regulatory Services Committee, eight Crop Specific Working Groups, ad hoc working groups when a broader approach is required, and stakeholder consultation. The public consultation process allows more voices and opinions to be included in developing standards.

The process is built around multi-stakeholder participation and is guided by CSGA's core principles to ensure standards put forward are science-based, internationally harmonized and incorporate new technology. After adoption, we continuously review our standards to help support Canadian competitiveness—especially when a standard for a new innovative niche crop kind is required.

CSGA relies on a Regulatory Services Committee and eight Crop Specific Working Groups that review and propose changes to make sure standards remain up-to-date and aligned internationally.

Ensuring broad representation and crop-specific expertise helps CSGA set the right seed crop production standards for Canada and strengthens Canada’s strong international reputation as a trusted supplier of quality seed.

### Breeder Seed Regulations

The Association began a review of the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Breeder Seed Crop*

*Production* including a 12-week public consultation. CSGA is committed to ensuring the benefits of plant breeding innovations are realized through quality Breeder seed for the benefit of Canadian agriculture.

### Circular 6

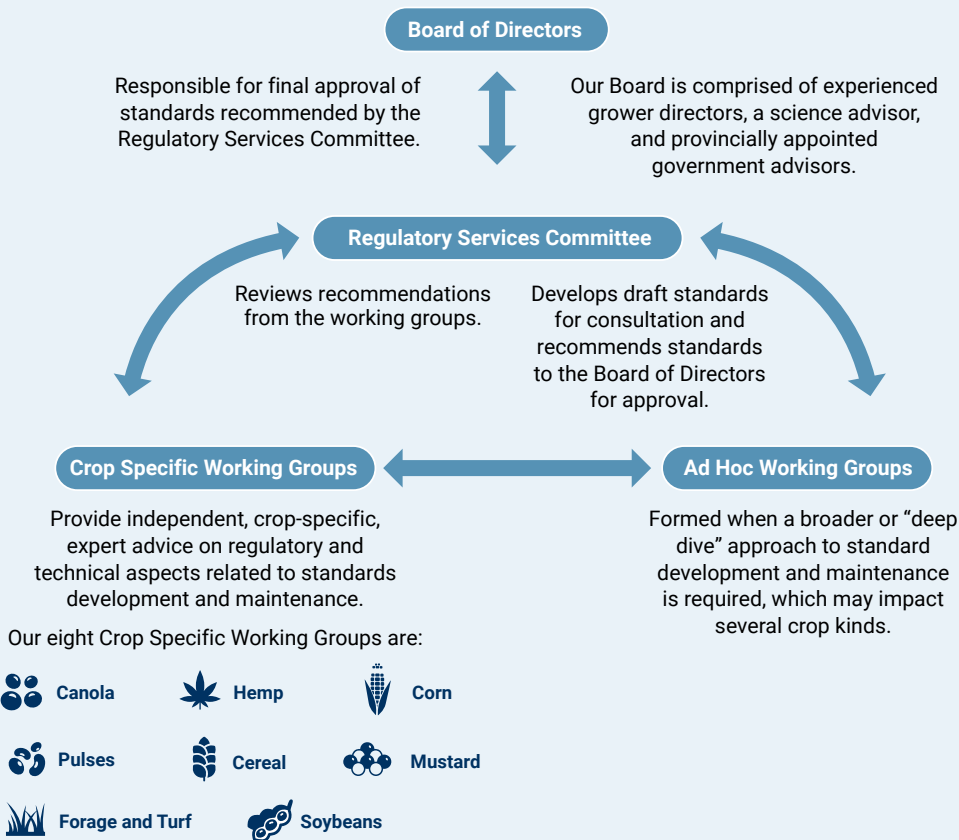
CSGA continued to review the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production* (Circular 6) to ensure the standards reflect the needs of our seed sector, are internationally harmonized and incorporate new technology.

## CSGA FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING STANDARDS

CSGA’s robust standards development process ensures that Canadian pedigreed seed production requirements and standards are science-based, stakeholder consulted, trusted, transparent, and internationally competitive.

### Who They Are

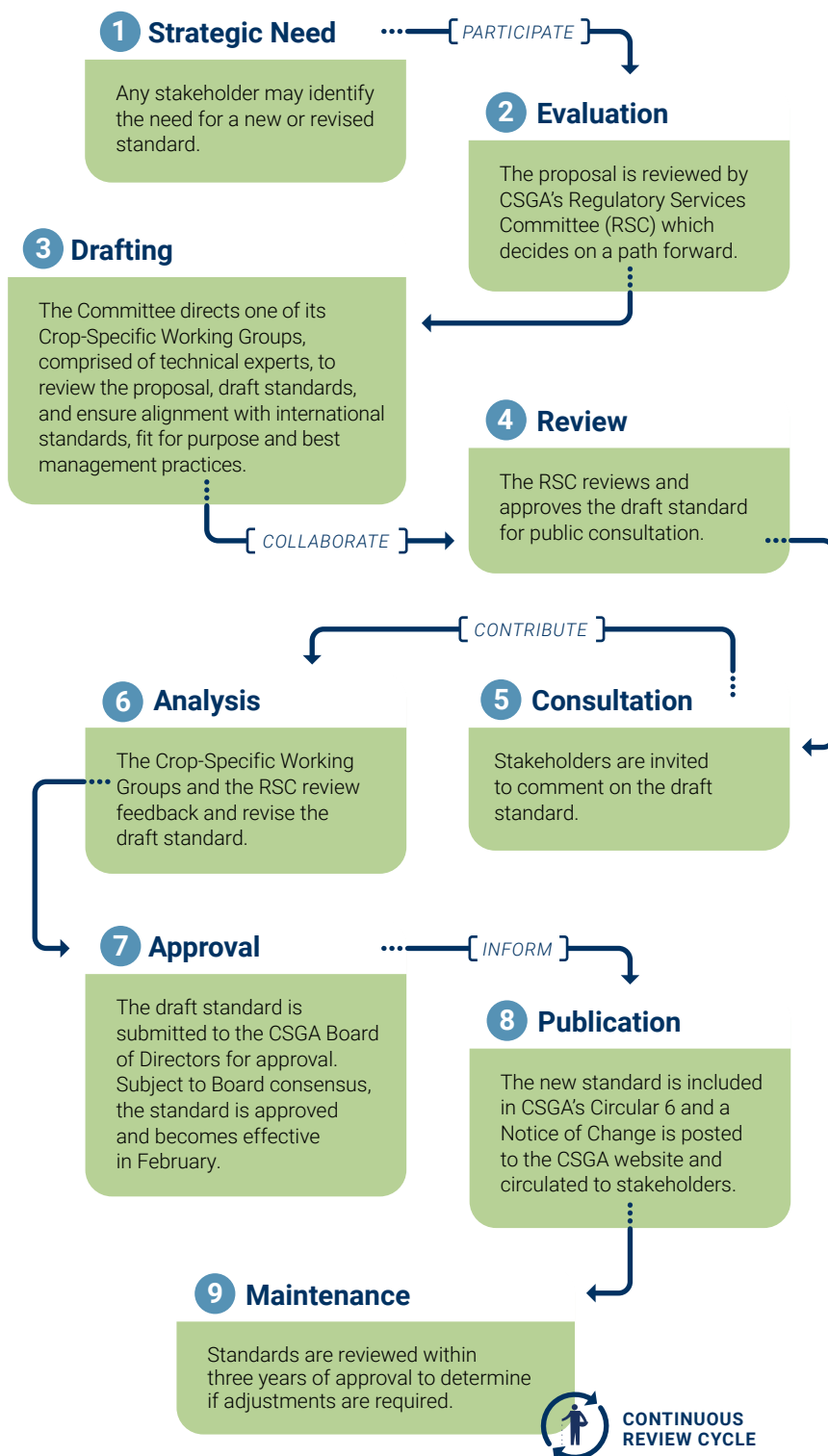
Our Regulatory Services Committee and Crop Specific Working Groups are comprised of technical experts, including seed growers, seed companies, variety developers, plant breeders, seed analysts, seed crop inspectors, the CFIA, and provincial government representatives.





# CSGA STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

## Our Process



## Our Principles

-  **Science-Based**
-  **Multi-Stakeholder Participation**
-  **Transparent and Accessible**
-  **Timely Access**
-  **No Crop Left Behind**
-  **Incorporate New Technology**
-  **Consensus-Based**

## CLIENT SERVICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

At CSGA, we strive to build strong relationships with our members and stakeholders.

- Our **client services** staff are available to answer questions, resolve issues, and provide guidance on CSGA's processes. They aim for superior customer satisfaction and building trust with clients.
- For the **communications** team, timely and effective communication is key to ensuring members and stakeholders are kept up to date on the Association's business, service offerings and sector news, and in both official languages.
- By providing value, communicating regularly and actively seeking feedback and involvement, CSGA is proud of its strong **member engagement**, sense of community and purpose.

### Our communications:

- position CSGA as a leader in the Canadian seed sector and as Canada's seed crop certification authority
- demonstrate our willingness to grow and improve our business offerings
- build trust and confidence amongst our members and stakeholders

**Seed Scoop:** Our regular English and French e-newsletters cover Association activities, issues, technical updates, educational information, and service reminders.

**Letter from The Executive Director:** Launched in November 2022, these regular updates direct from CSGA's Executive Director are intended to keep key stakeholders updated on relevant information regarding the Association, seed certification, Seed Regulatory Modernization, and the issues that have large impacts on their businesses and our seed sector.

**CSGA website:** Updated regularly, our website is the top resource for CSGA information on Certified seed, seed crop standards, and seed certification services.

**CSGA Learn:** Fully launched in 2022, *CSGA Learn* is Canada's first online seed learning platform, providing ten individual courses and four learning programs offering education resources for the seed sector. The learning materials focus on specific aspects of the seed system, including field crop photos, how-to videos, glossaries, reference links, and practical advice from experienced seed growers. Team training is also available to seed business managers.

*CSGA Learn* provides a flexible and affordable way for individuals to improve their skills and knowledge in seed production and certification. *CSGA Learn* is a valuable resource for anyone involved in the seed sector looking to enhance their seed skills to stay up to date with best practices in seed production.

In partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council and formalized in the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan, *CSGA Learn* closes the Canadian seed production learning gap, providing online access to pedigreed seed production training and best management practices across the country.



**Social Media:** Our social channels allow us to highlight current activities, events, important dates, educational material and other updates. Developing relationships with the agricultural community, focused on seed growers, seed businesses and seed associations, providing helpful content, and having meaningful engagement allows us to contribute to the sense of community.

**National Pedigreed Seed Locator:** Our online searchable database tool for all seed crops annually certified by the CSGA, including members' previous year carryover seed data.

**Partner publications:** Collaborating with relevant publishers allows us to increase the visibility and recognition of seed certification, CSGA and its services across the country and abroad.

CSGA also offers the **Agri-Toolkit** in partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC). The kit provides members free access to an online resource that provides information, tools and resources related to effective HR management practices within Canadian agricultural businesses. Additionally, the **Agri-Retailer Program training program**, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR) offers secondary and post-secondary seed education packages.



**Twitter:** Our main social media channel highlights our current activities, events, and other helpful content to develop relationships and encourage meaningful engagement.

**LinkedIn:** New to us in 2021, our LinkedIn page allows us to communicate in a professional setting and endorse the Association as a thought leader on public policy or industry topics.

**YouTube:** Our video platform to view seed grower training videos and Certified seed promotional videos.

**Connect with us on our social platforms!**



## TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL ENABLEMENT

As laid out in the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan, technology and digital enablement are a priority for the Association to improve business processes, services, and operations. Leveraging digital tools and solutions not only helps create new service opportunities, but it also enhances our client's experiences and business performance.

We continue to make strategic investments in technology and cybersecurity, improving our tools to respond to the ever-changing seed sector landscape and our stakeholders' needs.



**CSGA's SeedCert platform streamlines the seed certification process, reduces paperwork, and provides real-time information to all involved.**

- Growers and Authorized Third Parties can apply for seed crop certification online, request crop inspections, receive inspection results, and access their certification documents in a secure online environment.
- Seed crop inspectors can use the platform to record field inspections, access historical data, and communicate with growers.
- The CFIA can use the platform to oversee crop inspectors and inspection services and conduct inspections.

Digital seed tags are a key element of CSGA modernization efforts. In 2022, CSGA started a research pilot project supported by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Agri-Assurance Program to introduce digitally enabled seed tags for Breeder and Select class seed, the two pedigreed seed classes within CSGA's authority. A key objective of this project is to showcase how this technology could be applied to all other seed classes.

To better secure grower and third party information and set the SeedCert website for future security success as more and more of the CSGA forms become digitally managed, password security improvement was rolled out in 2022 to enhance member confidence in the security of our systems.

### Your Privacy Matters

**As part of our ongoing commitment to transparent business practices, data security and confidentiality, CSGA made changes to our Privacy Policy. Additionally, all CSGA staff completed a Cybersecurity Awareness Training Program. With our digital-first mindset, these strategic training investments help strengthen our ability to identify and avoid cybersecurity threats.**







# OUR MEETINGS

*CSGA members' meetings in 2022–2023 included the July 6, 2022, Annual General Meeting.*

## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CSGA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually for the third consecutive year. This also marked the Association's 118<sup>th</sup> AGM. President Joe Rennick welcomed 106 attendees to the meeting and provided an overview of an exciting year for the Association. He covered the steps taken toward becoming a stronger Association, our CSGA 2.0 Business plan, and our strategic vision for a future with CSGA taking on even greater leadership in Canada's seed system.

Special guest, Dr. Siddika Mithani, President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), addressed attendees, speaking to the strong and productive relationship between CSGA and the CFIA and how it will continue to strengthen under Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM).

Doug Miller, CSGA's Executive Director, spoke to the Association's goals, priorities and deliverables. He spoke briefly on SRM and that we have invested considerable time to ensure a leadership role and influence outcomes. Doug also touched on *CSGA Learn*, the new online seed learning platform and the 2021–2022 Annual Report.

Doug then transitioned to the financial report, highlighting the Association's financial performance for 2021–2022 and shared some audited financial statements on screen.

Jonathan Nyborg, CSGA Past President and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Resolutions Report and provided responses to the resolutions carried during the 2021 AGM. Jonathan continued as Chair of the Nominations Committee and presented the Nominations Report for the Board of Directors.

Outgoing President Joe Rennick then passed the gavel on to incoming President Dale Connell. Each spoke to their pride in CSGA, the strength of its membership and the importance of collaboration.

With the business portion of the AGM adjourned, a Town Hall meeting was held after the break, where our meeting sponsors were highlighted. Jonathan Nyborg, Chair of the Awards Committee, then announced the recipients for the Robertson Associate Award to Joe Hickson, Kevin Runnalls, and Peter Szentimrey. The Honorary Life Awards were presented to Dr. Helen Booker, Cathy Breadner, and Dr. Istvan Rajcan. The Clark-Newman-Clayton Award was presented posthumously to Dr. Alireza (Ali) Navabi.

The ASCIS Association then provided a video update on their work for the past year. Doug Miller then spoke to SRM in more detail, summarizing CSGA's vision for the future – a strong, national seed certification system that encourages innovation, provides a digital single window for all seed certification services and is focused on strong governance and partnerships.

Speaking as Chair of the Resolution Committee, Jonathan Nyborg then presented the two member resolutions received for discussion and voting.

The meeting then moved to the closed member-to-member session.

\* Complete minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting are available at [seedgrowers.ca](https://seedgrowers.ca).

# OUR FINANCIAL UPDATE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Association finished the year with a surplus of \$655,107, which marks the second consecutive year with a surplus (\$292,404 in 2022). Current assets increased by \$646,333 to \$2,173,293, mostly due to an increase in cash of \$491,325 and an increase in accounts receivable of \$159,933. The increase in accounts receivable was due to CSGA invoicing third party access fees in January, which accounts for \$155,000 in the accounts receivable total. The association's current liabilities decreased by \$106,447 to \$666,367.

The Association's net assets have an operating reserve of 64.11% (available net assets over total expenses), which is an increase from 42.61% in 2022. The organization has more funds on hand to cushion against unexpected events, losses of income, and large unbudgeted expenses.

The association's current ratio (current assets over current liabilities) is 3.26, which represents a 1.28 increase over 2022. This increase represents how many additional times the organization can pay its short-term obligations compared to the prior year. The Association can take steps within the next fiscal year to improve the management of its working capital.

The Association has almost fully recovered from deficits in 2020 and 2021 of \$410,846 and \$412,516, respectively. The Association has the resources to fund its programs and support its mission in the short term. Although the Association's net reserve policy is now satisfied, the Association should continue to prioritize control of discretionary costs and continue to seek new revenue streams.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Total revenue increased by \$151,860 to \$4,049,233, which represented a 3.90% increase over the 2022 fiscal year. The increase in revenue was due to increased acreage fee revenue of \$260,810, associated with the implementation of a new fee schedule, and increased client service revenue of \$116,577. Membership fee revenue decreased by \$19,510 as total members decreased from 3,113 to 2,983 members.

Total expenses decreased by \$193,283 to \$3,389,498, which represents a 5.39% decrease from the 2022 fiscal year. The decrease in expenses was due to lower general and administrative expenses of \$183,558 and CFIA inspection-related expenditures of \$16,473. Expenses are also incurred for work related to CSGA's AAFC's AgriAssurance programs of \$8,495.

CSGA's financial statements are available in [Appendix A](#), and the complete audited Financial Statements for 2022–2023 are available online at [seedgrowers.ca](http://seedgrowers.ca).



# OUR STAKEHOLDERS

*CSGA prioritizes partnerships to deliver on our mandate and achieve our strategic priorities.*

## AGRICULTURE CARBON ALLIANCE (ACA)

In June 2022, CSGA joined the Agriculture Carbon Alliance (ACA) as a member of its national coalition, which represents >7% of Canada's land and includes 190,000+ farm businesses. The ACA was formed to ensure that Canadian farmers and ranchers are included in important discussions about environmental policies and regulations that directly affect their businesses and livelihoods. The main focus of the ACA in 2022 was Bill C-234, an Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, which aims to remove the federal carbon tax from natural gas and propane used on farms.

## AOSCA, OECD, ECCC

### The International Harmonization of Seed Standards

One of CSGA's core roles is to ensure that Canadian seed certification standards are aligned with international standards and vice versa. Other countries' seed standards and policies must align with CSGA's and Canada's, and ours align with theirs to ensure that trade is not negatively impacted.

- **Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA):** Member agencies include 44 U.S. states, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, and South Africa. CSGA is a





recognized leader in AOSCA. CSGA staff hold leadership roles throughout the organization, including the Board of Directors, the Certification Requirements and the Standards Council, the Advisory Committee, and several commodity committees.

- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes** with 61 participating countries. CSGA actively supports the CFIA in representing Canada in developing internationally recognized OECD seed varietal certification standards. Meetings of the Seed Schemes afford opportunities to liaise with the International Seed Federation (ISF), the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), the International Union for Protection of New Varieties (UPOV) and the representatives of the national designated authorities of the participating countries. In 2022, ahead of its first in-person annual meeting since 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia, there was a policy workshop on the contribution of seed to sustainable food systems. The Technical Working Group also met and recommended several changes to the Rules, including hemp isolation and seed mixture requirements that were approved by the Annual Meeting. CSGA was hired in a consulting capacity to assist the Seed Schemes continue to make progress on its digitalization initiative.

## CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY (CFIA) Business Continuity and System Improvements

As regulatory partners responsible for Canada's seed certification system, the CFIA and CSGA met every two weeks during the 2022 season to ensure effective delivery and oversight of certification services and to resolve in-season issues as they emerged.







## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL HUMAN RESOURCE COUNCIL (CAHRC)

### Professional Development Services

With the successful launch of *CSGA Learn*, CSGA continues to work with CAHRC to provide ongoing support to the online learning system and material.

## CANADIAN GRAIN COMMISSION, GRAIN RESEARCH LAB (GRL)

### Seed Research and Innovation

CSGA has a longtime working relationship with the Grain Research Lab of the Canadian Grain Commission and its testing related to varietal identity. In 2023, CSGA traceability data supported a CFIA investigation of malt barley purity that included genetic purity testing by the GRL.

## CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE (CFA)

### Seed and Agriculture Policy Development

CSGA's membership in the CFA continued to provide an effective forum for developing common policy positions with many of Canada's leading farm organizations on issues ranging from seed regulatory modernization, sustainability, and the Grocery Code of Conduct. CSGA has also been actively engaged with CFA through their Seed Sector Committee.



## **CANADIAN ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE CROPS (CRSC)** **Responsible Grain Code of Practice**

CSGA's membership in CRSC provided access to the national forum in 2022 for CSGA and other producer organizations to review and revise the proposed code for sustainable grain production following widespread concern expressed by producers. CSGA supports CRSC's mission to provide a national forum for coordinating and communicating the sustainability of Canada's grain production.

## **HEALTH CANADA OFFICE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** **New Hemp Varieties**

CSGA is an original member of Health Canada's Interdepartmental Working Group, which meets twice a year to recommend new hemp varieties for addition to the List of Approved Cultivars that are eligible to be grown in Canada.

## **SEEDS CANADA** **Collaboration to Advance the Seed Sector**

Seeds Canada and CSGA are Canada's predominant seed organizations, playing different but complementary roles in advancing the seed sector. Seeds Canada is an important seed sector partner for the Association, and CSGA holds an Affiliate membership with them.





## OUR PEOPLE

# OUR BOARD

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The CSGA Executive Committee is comprised of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, the immediate Past President, and a Provincial Government Advisor.

### DIRECTORS

CSGA is governed by a Board of Directors drawn from its members. CSGA's By-laws ensure that at least one Director is nominated from each seed producing region.

### ADVISORS

The Board is supported by nine Provincial Government Advisors, each appointed by their respective provincial Minister of Agriculture and one Academic Advisor. As official advisors to CSGA and Branch Boards, our Provincial Government Advisors provide important governance and policy development input.

## Executive Committee



**DALE CONNELL**  
President



**GLENN LOGAN**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



**SHANNON BIEMAN**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



**JOE RENNICK**  
Past President



**PETER SCOTT**  
Provincial Government  
Advisor

## Directors

**Roxanne Asselin**, Québec

**Andrew Ayre**, Manitoba

**Shannon Bieman**, Ontario

**Carl Bolton**, Ontario

**Richard Brault**, Québec

**Roy Klym**, Saskatchewan

**Glenn Logan**, Alberta

**Ryan Murray**, Manitoba

**Jonathan Nyborg**, Maritimes

**Chelsea Tomlinson**, Alberta

**Laurie Wakefield**, Saskatchewan

## Advisors

**Damien Chaput**, Ministère de  
l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et  
de l'Alimentation du Québec

**Steve Hamill**, PEI Department  
of Agriculture and Land

**Dr. Bryan Harvey**  
(OC, SOM, FAIC, DSc, PhD, PAg),  
Academic Advisor

**Marcia Hewitt-Fisher**, Alberta Ministry  
of Agriculture and Forestry

**Dennis Lange**, Manitoba Ministry of  
Agriculture and Resource Development

**Amy Sangster**, Nova Scotia  
Department of Agriculture

**Brenna Schilds**, British Columbia  
Ministry of Agriculture

**Peter Scott**, New Brunswick  
Department of Agriculture,  
Aquaculture and Fisheries

**Sara Tetland**, Saskatchewan  
Ministry of Agriculture





# OUR STANDING COMMITTEES

## EXECUTIVE

Dale Connell\*  
Shannon Bieman  
Glenn Logan  
Joe Rennick  
Peter Scott

## APPEALS

Glenn Logan\*  
Shannon Bieman  
Richard Brault  
Ryan Murray  
Christina Rowan\*\*  
Peter Scott  
Sara Tetland  
Chelsea Tomlinson  
Laurie Wakefield

## AUDIT

Roy Klym\*  
Carl Bolton  
Dale Connell  
Glenn Logan  
Peter Scott

## AWARDS

Jonathan Nyborg\*  
Andrew Ayre  
Carl Bolton  
Richard Brault  
Chelsea Tomlinson  
Laurie Wakefield

## GOVERNANCE

Jonathan Nyborg  
Glenn Logan\*  
Andrew Ayre  
Carl Bolton

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Glenn Logan\*  
Roxanne Asselin  
Shannon Bieman  
Bryan Harvey

## INTERBRANCH COORDINATION

Roy Klym\*  
Colleen Acres  
Roxanne Asselin  
Kelly Chambers  
Andrew Dawson  
Jean Dumont  
Laurie Hayes  
Tim Montague  
Tracy Niemela  
Jonathan Nyborg  
Daniel Sanders  
Daniel Savoie  
Jennifer Seward  
Mike Shewchuk

## PLANT BREEDERS

Bryan Harvey\*  
Helen Booker  
Annie Claessens  
Bruce Coulman  
Greg Gingera  
Rale Gjuric  
Robert Graf  
Michel McElroy  
Istvan Rajcan  
Tom Warkentin

## REGULATORY SERVICES

Glenn Logan\*  
Roxanne Asselin  
Andrew Ayre  
Carl Bolton  
Richard Brault  
Damien Chaput  
Krista de Milliano  
Jim Downey  
Willy Drost\*\*  
Steven Hamill  
Bryan Harvey  
Wendy Jahn  
Roy Klym  
Philippe Lemaître  
Rick Love  
Brigette Moore  
Ryan Murray  
Jonathan Nyborg  
Christina Rowan\*\*  
Laurie Wakefield

\* Chair

\*\* Official Observers

# OUR STAFF

<b>DOUG MILLER</b>	Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
<b>CAROLINE LAFONTAINE</b>	Chief Operating Officer
<b>PAM COLES</b>	Managing Director, Finance and Administration
<b>MIKE SCHEFFEL</b>	Managing Director, Policy and Standards
<b>GAIL HARRIS</b>	Standards Manager
<b>BRIANNA CHOUINARD</b>	Certification Manager
<b>TANIA CALVERLEY</b>	Communications and Engagement Manager
<b>JANET JANSEN</b>	Technology and Digital Enablement Manager
<b>EMMANUEL FONDI</b>	Policy and Certification Officer
<b>JACKIE PRIDHAM</b>	Programs and Certification Officer
<b>ALEX BOUMA</b>	Certification Officer
<b>MELANIE FARAH-ROY</b>	Client Services Coordinator
<b>RYAN LAMBERT</b>	Support Officer
<b>RANDY PREATER</b>	Special Advisor
<b>LAKSHANA MAHABIR</b>	Policy Officer <i>(to September 2022)</i>
<b>LATONA NICHOLSON</b>	Support Officer <i>(to September 2022)</i>
<b>JAZZMINE JOHN</b>	Support Officer <i>(to September 2022)</i>

# APPENDIX A

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of Operations

Period ended January 31, 2023, with comparative information for the year ended January 31, 2022

	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2022
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Acreage fees	\$ 1,793,485	\$ 1,532,675
Membership fees	703,772	611,335
Client service fees	591,825	587,195
Branch acreage and membership fees	591,746	593,493
Plot fees	185,840	178,140
Assessment for CFIA inspections	83,575	100,009
Interest and other revenue	66,915	79,657
Government grants and subsidies	32,075	214,869
	4,049,233	3,897,373
<b>Expenses:</b>		
General and administrative expenses	2,705,712	2,889,270
Branch fee paid out	591,746	593,493
CFIA inspections	83,536	100,009
Project expenses	8,495	
	3,389,489	3,582,772
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over:</b>		
Expenses before the undernoted	659,744	314,601
<b>Other income (expense):</b>		
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(4,637)	(22,197)
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 655,107</b>	<b>\$ 292,404</b>

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended January 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	INTERNALLY RESTRICTED	INVESTED IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	2023	2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 96,048	\$ (259,870)	\$ 1,836,178	\$ 1,961,703
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	–	(4,637)	659,744	655,107	292,404
Remeasurements related to pension liability	–	–	(409,636)	(409,636)	(417,929)
Purchase of tangible capital and intangible assets	–	44,215	(44,215)	–	–
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	–	(43,567)	43,567	–	–
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 92,059</b>	<b>\$ (10,410)</b>	<b>\$ 2,081,649</b>	<b>\$ 1,836,178</b>



## Schedule of General and Administrative Expenses

Period ended January 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2022
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	\$ 43,567	\$ 62,996
Annual general meeting (net)	(9,882)	21,869
Bad debts	2,611	2,764
Contracted services	90,257	106,185
Data processing	133,934	125,604
Employee benefits	257,401	222,940
Honoraria	100,137	103,000
Insurance	49,271	43,193
Internet and web site service	5,847	7,011
Membership fees	25,162	31,016
Office supplies and stationery	3,538	9,955
Postal services	7,801	(2,296)
Presentations and sponsorships	1,000	1,000
Printing	4,239	5,052
Professional fees	88,234	259,087
Promotional material	–	5,624
Publicity	53,743	14,472
Rent	64,095	74,072
Rental of equipment	10,827	15,156
Salaries	1,488,802	1,591,909
Special projects	–	56,288
Stakeholder education	17,325	–
Subscriptions	353	922
Technical and data development	99,635	108,606
Telephone	7,705	7,772
Travel, directors	98,394	9,838
Travel, staff	61,716	5,235
	<b>\$ 2,705,712</b>	<b>\$ 2,889,270</b>

Note: Annual general meeting expenses are shown on a net basis.



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