

Proposal for Introducing Affiliate and Associate Membership Types

FAQ

What is the background of CSGA's current membership structure, and why was it changed in 2013?

A: In 2013, CSGA transitioned from multiple membership types to a single Regular membership type due to implications of the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA). The Act mandated one class with voting rights, leading to the removal of Affiliate and Associate types. Today, a CSGA Regular member is defined as 'any person, partnership, organization producing or undertaking to produce pedigreed seed.' Many seed companies, including the large multinational life science companies, are already CSGA Regular members and have been for some time (over 20 years at least). These seed companies, due to the production of hybrid crops (corn and canola), have an active CSGA account number, pay a CSGA membership fee, and designate an individual to vote on CSGA matters.

Why is CSGA now considering the reintroduction of Affiliate and Associate membership types?

A: The goal of reintroducing these membership types is to increase stakeholder engagement, fulfill our CSGA 2.0 business plans, and align with CSGA's vision as part of the Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) process currently underway. The proposed membership types offer a pathway for diverse stakeholders who may not qualify as Regular members who want to actively contribute to and benefit from CSGA.

Will the proposed Affiliate and Associate membership types dilute existing membership and voting processes?

A: This proposal does not change the voting rights of Regular members but instead creates new membership types, ensuring no dilution of existing membership, but allowing full engagement in CSGA activities.

These membership types would have the ability to:

- Participate in CSGA member-to-member sessions and submit member proposals,
- Attend and vote as a membership type at CSGA Special General Meetings on topics as per the CNCA.

These membership types would **not be** eligible to:

- Vote on CSGA Fees As Described in 14:01a of the CSGA Bylaws (reserved for CSGA Regular members)
- Vote on the Directors nominated by the Provincial Branches for election to the CSGA Board of Directors.

Other considerations for the Affiliate membership type:

- If granted Board representation, could be eligible to vote on the election of the CSGA Board of Director, and/or
- Branches could consider accepting CSGA Affiliate members as Branch Affiliate members.

What are the potential benefits of introducing Affiliate and Associate membership types?

A: Reintroducing Affiliate and Associate membership types will allow CSGA to welcome more stakeholders *into the day-to-day seed certification system*. This will strengthen our expertise, broaden perspectives, and enhance diversity at a critical phase of the evolution and modernization of Canada's seed sector. This not only improves our seed certification system but creates a pathway for more stakeholders who want to be part of the conversation for the big-picture issues that will be discussed as part of this critical modernization process underway.

Who are the potential candidates for an Affiliate membership?

A: Affiliate membership would be open to any person, partnership, or organization supporting the production of pedigreed seed. Including:

- Seed Growers or CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeders wishing to maintain membership but not actively producing seed,
- Seed analysts, crop inspectors, Registered Seed Establishments, seed laboratories, and
- Seed companies not producing Breeder seed or hybrid crops.

Who are the potential candidates for an Associate membership?

A: Associate membership would be open to any sector association that is involved in or has an interest in pedigreed seed production to become a member, including:

- Seed Sector Associations
- Associations where CSGA is currently a member (reciprocal membership)
- National and Provincial Associations
- International organizations like AOSCA, ISTA, etc.
- Governmental organizations

What are the potential fee structures for Affiliate and Associate membership?

A: This has yet to be determined and will either align with CSGA's Current Membership Fee of \$240 or be established by the CSGA Board.

How will these proposed membership types impact CSGA's involvement in the Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) initiative?

A: This proposal amplifies CSGA's SRM recommendations to government by highlighting our vision of an inclusive seed certification system for the public good of Canadian agriculture.

How will the proposed classes impact voting on fees and the CSGA Board of Directors?

A: Affiliate and Associate members will not be eligible to vote on CSGA fees and the Board of Directors, preserving these privileges for Regular Members. However, if the Board composition were to include seats for affiliate members, affiliate members would nominate their affiliate representative to the Board, and they would have a vote on that seat (or several affiliate seats).

Will these proposed classes impact the trusted grower model?

A: No, the proposed classes are separate from the trusted grower model, which remains a fundamental aspect of CSGA's seed crop certification model. The trusted grower model ensures a grower of record on each field, maintaining the integrity of the certification process.

How can members ensure their voices are heard during this process?

A: Members can ensure their voices are heard by actively participating in the consultation process, providing constructive feedback, and engaging in discussions during the winter Branch meetings. CSGA values the input of its members and aims to address concerns through transparent communication and collaboration.