



## Call for Expressions of Interest: *Regulatory Services Committee - External Stakeholder Positions*

### Information for Interested Parties

#### CSGA Background

As Canada's national seed crop certification authority, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) has partnered with the Government of Canada for 120 years to deliver Canada's seed certification program to the benefit of Canada's agri-food system and all Canadians. We facilitate international trade, new technology adoption, and economic prosperity through seed certification.

[CSGA](#) provides the national seed crop certification program for Canada for most agricultural field crops and is responsible for establishing and administering seed certification requirements and standards. CSGA also certifies Breeder and Select seed and approves Breeder seed as eligible parent seed for further pedigreed seed crop production.

#### Seed Crop Standards Development

CSGA is proud 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 our sector's needs.

The development of requirements and standards for new crop kinds or types that support Canadian agriculture and the annual reviews of existing standards are guided and supported by CSGA's Regulatory Services Committee (RSC). Eight crop-specific working groups provide independent advice on certification requirements and technical standards.

CSGA's core [standards development principles](#) enable input from participants across Canadian agriculture, including seed growers, plant breeders, seed processors/distributors/retailers, inspectors, analysts, end users and government representatives.

*CSGA is currently seeking expressions of interest for external stakeholder positions on the Regulatory Services Committee*

#### Purpose of the Regulatory Services Committee

The RSC plays an essential role in the CSGA framework for developing standards and procedures for Canadian seed certification. The committee recommends changes to CSGA's certification requirements as set out in the [Canadian](#)

[Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production](#) (Circular 6) and the [Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements](#) (BSR) to ensure they are current, science-based, internationally harmonized, incorporate new technology, and provide high levels of varietal purity and genetic identity assurance.

**Circular 6** describes the procedures and requirements that a seed grower and a seed crop must meet for CSGA to certify the crop which is required before the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) can certify the seed.

**The BSR** is used with Circular 6 and describes additional certification requirements and standards that a plant breeder and a Breeder seed crop must meet for the CSGA to approve Breeder seed and issue a Breeder seed crop certificate.

The requirements in these documents and other aspects of Canada's national seed certification program ensure that Certified seed is not only true-to-type but also has good germination and freedom from impurities, including other crop kinds and weeds.

### Appointments and Composition

The membership of the Committee shall be:

- a. Three (3) CSGA Board members appointed at the Board's discretion, with one of them as Chair of the Committee;
- b. Six (6) seed growers (from eastern Canada and western Canada) with nominations from provincial seed grower branches and applications from growers at large;
- c. Three (3) seed processor/distributor/retailer representatives with applications from stakeholders at large;
- d. Two (2) plant breeders (one public, one private) with the Chair of the Plant Breeders Committee appointed by the Board and the other from applications from stakeholders at large;
- e. One (1) seed analyst with applications from stakeholders at large;
- f. Two (2) licensed seed crop inspectors (LSCI) with nominations from the Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services (ASCIS) Association and applications from stakeholders at large, and;
- g. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) representatives, as observers.

### External Stakeholder Selection Criteria

The Governance Committee and Board of Directors will use the following criteria to evaluate a candidate's fit for the RSC.

The RSC shall be comprised of individuals with relevant expertise who demonstrate knowledge related to the committee's key functions and the issues it will address in the near and longer term. Key stakeholders include seed growers, seed processors/distributors/retailers, plant breeders, seed crop inspectors and seed analysts.

Candidates will also be selected to ensure that the committee remains diverse with regional, crop kind and stakeholder representation.

Committee members must commit to attending RSC meetings, reviewing background information prior to the meeting, and contributing to the discussion at meetings. They must also agree to support seed certification in Canada and the work of the CSGA, remain objective and impartial, uphold confidentiality and professionalism, and declare any conflicts of interest in carrying out their duties.

## Length of Term and Meeting Frequency

Committee appointments are for a two-year term with the possibility of renewal. There are at least two meetings per year, each lasting at least two hours, with one to two hours of preparation required for each.

## Operation of the RSC

More information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the RSC and the role of the Chair can be found in the linked [Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#). **Please review the TOR before submitting an Expression of Interest.** For questions regarding the role of the committee or its members, please contact [Gail Harris](#), Standards Manager.

## Expression of Interest Application

The application form can be found [here](#). Expressions of interest will initially be compiled by staff and presented to CSGA's Governance Committee, which will make the final recommendation to the Board of Directors.

## Expression of Interest Closing Date

Expressions of interest will be accepted until March 1, 2024.