

CSGA 2024/2025 Update to Regional Branches

Strong Foundation.

Bright Future.



*Celebrating
120 years together!*

Fondations solides.

Avenir prometteur.



*Célébrons
ensemble 120 ans!*





Who We Are

CSGA is Canada's national seed crop certification authority and Canada's largest seed organization, with over **3,000 members** and **2,500 seed-growing businesses** across 8 provinces.

Through a **120-year partnership** with government, we are a **respected, science-based, global leader** in seed crop certification, supporting innovation, new technologies, and the growth of the Canadian seed sector.





What We Do

We **certify seed crops** and **set seed crop standards** with strong grassroots participation from the seed sector value chain, independent experts, and our open and transparent public consultations.

+2,008

Different
Varieties

78

Different
Crop Kinds

+1.18

Million
Acres

• • • • •

Celebrating 120 Years!

- Since 1904, every step we've taken, we've taken together.
- Thank you to every member, grower, farmer, researcher, and partner who has walked this path with us.
- Here's to our Strong Foundation and our Bright Future.





New Mission and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

Deliver an inclusive and transparent national seed crop certification and standards-setting system that advances collaboration and innovation while upholding the highest standards of quality, trust, and excellence in seed production, for the benefit of Canadian agriculture.

Our Vision for the Future

Ensure Canada has an agile, transparent, efficient, and effective seed certification system and regulatory framework that fosters innovation, empowers farmers, strengthens collaboration across the value chain, and supports Canada's position as a respected global leader in seed.





Key Priorities for the Past Year

- Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM)
- Membership Class Consultation
- Revamp of CSGA's Regulatory Services Committee



CSGA's Vision for Seed Certification

Delegated Authority

Establish CSGA as the national authority to manage all seed certification functions on behalf of government, creating streamlined, agile processes and improved user experience.

Digital Single Window

Establish a Single-Window for seed certification services, enabling a digital-end-to-end certification system and new opportunities for industry oversight.



Seed Regulatory Modernization

- ✓ Strong alignment between task team recommendations and survey responses with CSGA's SRM positions
- ✓ Significant sector engagement around our "Strong Foundation. Bright Future." campaign and SRM Hot Ones Webinar
- ✓ Continual refinement of CSGA policy positions and value proposition
- ✓ Expect CFIA to release SRM proposals Spring 2025 (was Fall 2024)



CFIA's What We Heard Report

The result of CFIA's SRM pre-consultation survey with a summary of stakeholder feedback to the SRM Task Team recommendations. The 412 respondents included:

- Seed growers
- Seed conditioners, companies, testing labs
- Farmers/producers and organizations
- Private and public plant breeders
- Non-government organizations and general public
- Commodity associations (national and provincial)
- Governments (federal, provincial, municipal)
- Grain industry, food processors
- Academia



Would the seed certification process be improved if CSGA took on additional seed certification tasks?

Common Themes

- CSGA has been reliably administering the national seed crop certification program, and the CFIA must continue to oversee the system while providing agility through delegating authority to a non-government entity.
- Opportunity for CSGA and CFIA to simplify and streamline the certification process
- Costs will be a factor



Big Picture Topics

Should CSGA's SeedCert platform be expanded to collect information regarding pedigreed seed declarations, seed grading reports, and quantity of seed certified?

Common Themes

- Expanding SeedCert to provide a digital 'single window' would expedite data access, provide value-added traceability and improve monitoring and regulatory oversight of the sector.
- System must be secure and there must be full transparency regarding who has access, how it can be used, and any associated fees.



Would you find value in the establishment of an Advisory Committee?

Common Themes

- Current system is working well, and an Advisory Committee should only provide guidance.
- Adding an Advisory Body to the standards-setting process will not streamline or improve it.
- Since standards impact the entire value chain, decisions on standards should involve reps from across the value chain and be made in a neutral manner to avoid conflict of interest.



Big Picture Topics

An Advisory Committee should not be involved in standards setting, and the organization responsible for setting the standard should be responsible for amending it.

Common Themes

- Current system is working well, and an advisory committee should only provide guidance.
- Adding an Advisory Body to the standards-setting process will not streamline or improve it.
- Since standards impact the entire value chain, decisions on standards should involve reps from across the value chain and be made in a neutral manner to avoid conflict of interest.





Building a More Open and Inclusive CSGA

To achieve our vision of a next generation seed system, with CSGA as the main administrator of Canada's seed certification system, we need to have every member of the seed certification value chain at the table.

Members unanimously approved the proposed By-law changes to reintroduce **Affiliate** and **Associate** membership classes at a Special Member Meeting.

These membership classes will:

- ✓ Increase stakeholder engagement
- ✓ Fulfill our CSGA 2.0 business plan
- ✓ Align with our SRM vision
- ✓ Improve transparency
- ✓ Increase diversity of perspective, opinion and expertise
- ✓ Welcome more stakeholders into the day-to-day seed certification system



Regular Membership Class

Any person, partnership, or organization **producing or undertaking to produce** pedigreed seed.

Current Candidates	Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeds Growers• Plant Breeders• Seed companies producing hybrid crops• Organizations producing Breeder seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend member-to-member sessions• Submit member proposals• Vote at CSGA meetings• Eligible to elect the Regular Directors to the CSGA Board of Directors• Recognized by Branches• Pathway to CSGA Board• Vote on certification and membership fees



Affiliate Membership Class

Any regulated party in Canada's seed certification system.

Proposed Candidates	Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seed growers not actively producing seed crops in current year• Plant breeders not applying for the certification of Breeder seed in current year• ASCIS, LSCI, seed analysts, seed graders, seed laboratories, seed establishments, and operators of RSEs authorized, licensed, accredited, or registered by the CFIA Seed companies that don't meet Regular member requirements• Active plant breeding institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend member-to-member sessions and submit member proposals• Attend and vote at AGMs on relevant topics• Eligible to elect up to two Affiliate Directors to the CSGA Board of Directors*• Attend and vote as a membership class at CSGA special meeting• Pathway to CSGA Board• Branches could follow suit

** A Board seat will be provided for the 1st 100 affiliate members, and any additional affiliate members beyond 100 will unlock another Board seat. Voting would be limited to Affiliate members only.*



Associate Membership Class

Any industry association or organization that is involved or has interest in pedigreed seed production.

Proposed Candidates	Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seed sector associations• National and provincial agriculture and agrifood associations• Organizations that support the seed sector• Government and intergovernmental organizations• International seed sector associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend member-to-member sessions and submit member proposals• Attend and vote as a membership class at CSGA special meetings• Branches could follow suit



Comparing Membership Rights

Regular Members

- Full voting as in past
- Approve membership and certification fees
- Pathway to the Board
- Vote on Regular Directors as in past
- Appoint a representative annually, if an organization
- Right to vote as a class in Special Meetings

Affiliate Members

- Right to vote on relevant topics at AGMs
- Pathway to the Board
- Vote for up to two Affiliate Board Members
- Do not vote on Regular Directors on the Board or fees
- Appoint a representative, annually if an organization
- Right to vote as a class on certain business in Special Meetings

Associate Members

- Non-voting in AGMs
- Right to vote as a class on certain business in Special Meetings
- Receive notice of meetings
- Right to attend meetings



Pathway to Membership

- Applications will open on February 17, 2025, for Affiliate and Associate members
- Interested parties can pre-register with CSGA via a QR code
- \$240 universal membership fee across all membership classes



Renewal of Our Regulatory Services Committee

We are committed to managing an efficient, transparent and inclusive seed crop certification system and standards development process.

Current Workplan

- Cereals: Consultation on field standards for other cereals
- Hemp: Isolation requirements
- Planning and Priorities

Select Seed

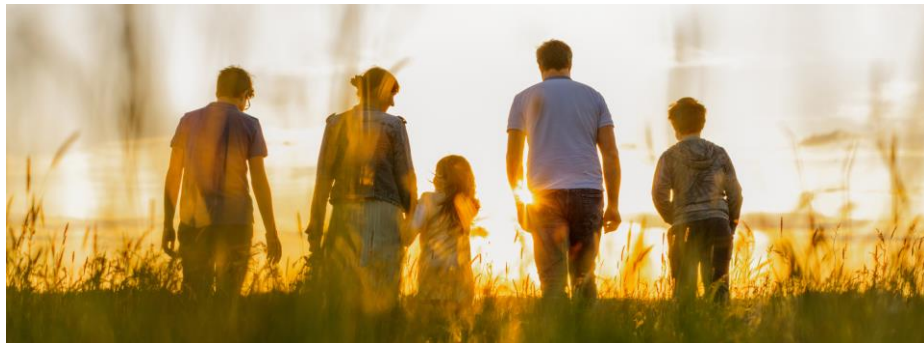
- The Board endorsed an ad hoc working group on Select seed to review requirements
- Considering development of a Select Bulk Certificate

▶ Thank you to all who expressed interest and applied!

Advancing the Sector



- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Health, dental, drug, vision, and travel insurance
- **Mental Health Support:** Tailored to for agricultural professionals
- **Critical Illness & Disability Protection**
- **Customizable Plans:** Choose coverage that suits your needs



- Deepen **seed production & certification knowledge**
- Valuable insights for **professional growth**
- **Reduced time** to become a Plot Grower
- **Required** for Recognized Plant Breeder and Associate Plant Breeder status
- **Over 450** learning products enrolled!





Join Us!

**Victoria,
British Columbia**

July 3-5, 2025

Thank You to our Staff, Board, Branches and Members!

It is your dedication, hard work,
and commitment that truly
drive CSGA's success!

We appreciate everything
you do!

