

CSGA 121st Annual General Meeting Minutes

July 4-5, 2025 - Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC

Friday, July 4, 2025

8:15 am: Welcome

After a sunny afternoon at Highland Pacific Golf Course, Butchart Gardens, salmon fishing or tall ship sailing on Thursday, July 3rd, and the launch of Companion and Children's Programs, more than 150 participants were welcomed on Friday, July 4th by President Glenn Logan to the 121st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA). They were reminded that this AGM was an opportunity to learn, share, and be inspired, with thought-provoking guest speakers, opportunities to engage in panel discussions and connect with peers from across Canada. They were invited to explore the challenges and opportunities of shaping the future of seed certification and innovation in Canada.

Past presidents, directors, advisors, staff, award recipients, and growers who passed since the last AGM were recognized. Members were thanked for their ongoing support of CSGA, quorum was confirmed, and appreciation was extended to the following sponsors:

- *SeCan* for Family Fun Night
- *Crop Development Centre* for the meeting lanyards
- Bayer Crop Science for the keynote speaker
- *CANTERRA SEEDS* for the hotel key cards
- *Corteva Agriscience* for lunch
- *20/20 Seed Labs, Farm Credit Canada, Flaman Sales and BrettYoung* for the coffee breaks
- *SGS Canada* for the breakfast
- *SeedNet* for the Gala Dinner table wine
- *Bolton and Klym families* for the Children's program
- *Nexeed* for its booth outside the meeting room
- *CropLife Canada, Block's Agencies, Syngenta, AgCall, and Prograin* for their AGM sponsorship

CSGA's Executive Director, Doug Miller, explained that this meeting marks a turning point for CSGA, as its first AGM under a renewed membership model. With new Affiliate and Associate membership classes, a new chapter in CSGA's story begins: a more open, inclusive community that reflects the full scope of Canada's seed certification system. He also reflected on how this AGM takes place against the backdrop of much change, at home and abroad. Whether it's trade challenges, regulatory modernization, or uncertainty about the future of public plant breeding, these dynamics are shaping decisions we need to make — together. How we respond, how we show up, how we collaborate, and how we lead will help shape what comes next.

In appreciation for all the AGM guest speakers, CSGA has donated to *Agriculture in the Classroom Canada*, a national charitable organization that helps young people understand where their food comes from.

9:00 am: Bridging Policy & Power: Navigating Government Relations

Panel: **Carla Ventin** (CSGA advisor and Government Relations Expert), **Scott Ross** (Executive Director, CFA), and **Jeff Reid** (Chief Executive Director, SeCan)

On critical policy issues facing Canadian producers today, panellists outlined practical insights on advocacy and the role for the industry that included:

- the importance of collaborating with other organizations and sectors to educate urban Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly on the economic impact of agriculture and its record of productivity growth;
- adapting advocacy plans to recognize security and sovereignty as key government priorities;
- emphasizing to government the need for a national agriculture innovation strategy or policy;
- re-positioning the seed sector as a valuable investment for government, not an expense; and
- remembering that, since all politics is local, producers should invite government representatives to on-farm and farm organization meetings.

10:00 am: Advances in Drone Innovation for Hemp Crop Inspections

Dr. Jan Slaski, of Bio-Industrial Services Division, InnoTech, Lethbridge, Alberta, outlined how traditional seed crop inspections of monoecious hemp plants, which contain both male and female flowers, require visual verifications of plant sex ratios, an awkward process for hemp with its towering, uneven crop canopy. Inspectors often struggle to sample enough plants for statistically meaningful results. Dr. Slaski's research in Alberta employs drones with high-resolution cameras to capture thousands of overlapping images. These are fed into deep learning AI models originally designed to identify fibres in oriented strand board (OSB).

The real innovation is a multi-step process: orthophoto correction to fix geometric distortion from camera angles; segmentation models trained to detect male and female plant characteristics; ground truthing with on-the-ground manual counts to validate AI predictions; and statistical outputs that can be used to help certify a seed crop with greater accuracy and efficiency than traditional sampling methods. The technology's implications go beyond hemp. Dr. Slaski is also applying it to disease resistance screening in canola. These tools may eventually be used for trait verification or disease monitoring in other seed crops.

11:00 am: Navigating Agriculture's Economic Landscape: Market Trends and Risks

Craig Klemmer, Manager of Thought Leadership, Farm Credit Canada (FCC), described how Canada's agricultural productivity has declined slowly since the early 2000s. From 1993 to 2000, annual productivity gains were over 2% and are now between 0.8% and 1.4%. If that trend continues, Canadian farms risk losing \$30 billion in potential growth over the next decade. "That's money out of farmers' pockets, food off Canadians' tables, and competitiveness lost on global markets." Many confuse productivity with output. However, productivity includes yield and efficiency, which is how much land, labour, water, and energy are required to grow a bushel of wheat or a tonne of canola. Investment in agricultural R&D, as a proportion of farm revenue, has declined in Canada since the 1990s.

While Israel, Australia, and the United States maintained research investments, Canada retrenched. The sector's economic footprint is substantial, with plant science innovation contributing over \$14.6 billion in value-added GDP, supporting nearly 17,000 jobs in breeding, and 20,000 in the domestic seed trade. Modern seed technologies, from trait-specific hybrids to gene-edited varieties, account for \$2.6 billion in output and over \$1 billion in GDP. Plant science innovation also plays a pivotal role in consumer welfare.

Without modern seed technologies, food prices in Canada would be at least 25% higher. Public and private researchers used to advance broad, exploratory goals.

Today, funding is narrower and tied to immediate returns, which may please investors but undermine the accidental breakthroughs that once revolutionized plant breeding. Klemmer suggested a three-pronged strategy: improving farm-level management (including AI), optimizing scale, and accelerating technical progress. He also concluded that an important challenge is narrative. He concluded that Canada's agricultural sector still struggles to communicate its value to urban politicians and voters, while trade tensions and food insecurity are converging to demand a stronger voice from the agri-food sector.

1:00 pm: AGM Business Program

President Glenn Logan welcomed members, confirmed a quorum, reviewed compliance with CSGA's Competition Protocol, and proposed the 2025 AGM Agenda.

Motion to approve the following 2025 AGM Agenda as presented to the membership, moved by Carl Bolton, seconded by Danny Limoges.

CARRIED*

AGM Business Program Agenda: July 4, 2025

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of 2024 AGM and SGM Minutes
- President's Report
- Financial Report
- Approval of Auditors
- Election of Regular and Affiliate Board Members
- Recess of AGM Business Program until July 5, 2025, 3 pm
- Member-to-Member Session (for active Regular, Affiliate, and Associate CSGA members)
- Member discussion & vote on proposed inflationary fee increase
- Member Proposals
- Adjournment

Motion to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2024, Annual General Meeting, and Minutes of the November 26, 2024, Special General Meeting as presented to the membership, moved by Roy Klym, seconded by Jonathan Nyborg.

CARRIED*

President's Report: President **Glenn Logan** reflected on the Board's strategic leadership focus over the past year to provide a grower-led, transparent certification system supporting individual producers and the broader seed sector. Accomplishments include strengthening governance practices, modernizing the membership structure, celebrating CSGA's 120th anniversary, reinforcing a commitment to data protection and digital security, and positioning CSGA as a credible and collaborative voice in Seed Regulatory Modernization discussions.

President Glenn Logan thanked CSGA's dedicated staff team, Board, and CSGA members for their continued commitment and leadership. Finally, he sincerely thanked all the sponsors who helped make this AGM possible.

Financial Report: Executive Director **Doug Miller** outlined CSGA's commitment to sustainable budgets, operational efficiency, and regular reviews of fees and proposals, in consultation with stakeholders, that sustain its governance and its standards development and certification services.

CSGA will also explore options for innovative service offerings that create value and help grow Canadian agriculture. He reported that audited financial statements, approved by the Board, were circulated and made available on CSGA's website. He summarized CSGA's financial statements and closed with these key messages:

- a. CSGA remains financially strong, with a \$197K surplus and a 33% improved financial position;
- b. We've held the line on fee increases for several years despite rising operational costs by reducing expenses, introducing efficiencies and capitalizing on new revenue opportunities.
- c. An inflationary adjustment in fees is now required to ensure CSGA can continue delivering high-quality certification services without compromising service levels, delaying critical modernization, or drawing down reserves in an unsustainable way.

Appointment of Auditors

Motion to appoint KPMG auditors of the Association for the ensuing year at the remuneration to be set by the Board of Directors. Moved by Tom Greaves, seconded by André Lussier. **CARRIED***

Election of Regular and Affiliate Board Members

The President reminded members that a national Board of Directors governs CSGA. The Board is made up primarily of Regular Directors, elected from each region of the country where seed is produced. These Directors are nominated by members of their provincial Branch and elected by Regular Members during the Annual General Meeting. In addition, the Board includes up to two Affiliate Directors, an Academic Advisor, and Provincially Appointed Advisors who bring valuable perspectives to the table.

This year, for the first time, Affiliate Members were invited to nominate a candidate for Affiliate Director, further strengthening our broader seed community's voice and inclusive support. The following individuals have been nominated as Directors to the National Board by their respective Branches for election at the AGM:

- Alberta-British Columbia: Lori Oatway, Chelsea Tomlinson
- Saskatchewan: Roy Klym, Ian Bodnaryk
- Manitoba: Andrew Ayre, Ryan Murray
- Ontario: Shannon Bieman, Carl Bolton
- Quebec: Marc-Antoine Paquet, Gabriel Provost
- Maritimes: Nicholas McCardle

Motion to elect the individuals nominated as Regular Directors to the CSGA Board of Directors as presented to the Membership, moved by Jonathan Nyborg, seconded by Adam Littman.

CARRIED*

Motion to elect Trent Whiting to the Affiliate Director position on the CSGA Board of Directors, as presented to the Membership, moved by Jennifer Seward, seconded by Holly Gelech.

CARRIED*

Nominations Report

The following have been named by their Provincial Ministers for appointment to the CSGA Board of Directors as Advisors to the Board:

- British Columbia: Brenna Schilds
- Alberta: Krista deMilliano
- Manitoba: vacant
- Saskatchewan: Matt Struthers
- Ontario: Joanna Follings
- Quebec: Damien Chaput
- New Brunswick: Peter Scott
- Nova Scotia: Amy Sangster
- Prince Edward Island: vacant

The Board elects the President and Vice President positions for two-year terms. In 2024, the Board elected Glenn Logan as President and Shannon Bieman as Vice President. Dale Connell will continue as Past President, and the Board will appoint Dr Bryan Harvey as academic and plant breeder advisor to the CSGA Board. Sincere thanks were extended to the Board of Directors for their dedicated volunteer service to CSGA and the sector, and to all the AGM sponsors for their generous support.

Motion to recess the Business Program of the 2025 CSGA Annual General Meeting to tomorrow, July 5th, at 3:00 pm, moved by Dr. Jan Slaski, seconded by Nicholas McCardle.

CARRIED*

2:00 pm: "What's Your Story?" - Mike Downie – Keynote Speaker

Mike Downie, award-winning filmmaker and co-founder of the *Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund*, was introduced by Philip Nadalin, Vice President of the Ontario Seed Growers and Agronomic Solutions Advisor for AGM sponsor Bayer Crop Science. Downie recalled the heroic stories of Canadian legends: Terry Fox, Ron Turcotte, Shania Twain, Celine Dion, and his brother Gord, who turned the story of David Milgaard into the *Wheat Kings* song that moved a country's conscience.

"These stories are our seeds," Downie said. "They need to be planted just like the ones you put in the ground. But Canadians don't brag. We don't boast. Hell, we apologize before we even tell a story; that's got to stop. You're feeding this country," he told them. "Now let's feed its soul." To a standing ovation, Downie reminded members that behind every Canadian institution, even one as quietly vital as the CSGA, there's a story worth shouting from the rooftops.

3:30 pm: Harnessing AI in Agriculture: Transforming Decision-Making - Brock Moir

Brock Moir explained that the AI game has changed with the rise of large language models (LLMs). "They can now read, write, listen, act, reason," says Moir. "They're not just software. They're infrastructure."

A physicist and now co-founder of Maleva Studio, Moir is building custom AI workflows across the agri-food sector, like the LLM-based system for a CSGA pilot project to review crop inspection reports and provide seed certification results in minutes. Recommended AI basics include:

- Understand & Generate:** LLMs can now rapidly read and summarize complex reports or draft proposals and SOPs
- Retrieve:** Semantic search makes keyword matching obsolete. Ask, and AI returns the reference requested
- Act:** Tools like ChatGPT Operator can build apps, fill forms, or take digital actions autonomously.

- d. **Listen:** Audio interfaces are now real-time and conversational. Google's NotebookLM turns dense regulations into podcast-style audio explainers, with interactive Q&A.
- e. **Automate:** AI doesn't just analyze. It decides. With CSGA, Moir built a pipeline where an AI system trained on Circular 6 auto-reviews inspection reports while flagging outliers for human appraisers to audit.

Moir is reframing what AgTech can be; not just sensors and soil maps, but smart, adaptive systems that think alongside humans, and sometimes ahead of them.

6:00 – 10:00 pm: SeCan's Family Fun Night

Generously sponsored by SeCan, the AGM was held at Church & State Winery in Brentwood Bay, one of Vancouver Island's most scenic destinations. Participants and families enjoyed a lively evening of music, games, drinks, and laughter.

Saturday, July 5, 2025

8:30 am: 2026 CSGA AGM Invitation – Whitehorse, Yukon

Executive Director **Doug Miller** welcomed all to next year's Annual General Meeting in one of Canada's most unforgettable destinations, Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon, known for its warm hospitality, rich history, and vibrant northern culture. Whitehorse was chosen not just for its breathtaking setting, but also for an opportunity for members to discover part of Canada they might not otherwise visit, a chance to combine professional development with an unforgettable northern experience.

2026 ISTA Annual Meeting Invitation – Calgary, Alberta

Sarah Foster, 20/20 Seed Labs President, and **Jane Bartel**, SGS Canada Lab Manager, invited all to the International Seed Testing Association's Annual Meeting, June 22-25, 2026, in Calgary, Alberta. Both 20/20 Seed Labs and SGS Canada operate labs accredited by ISTA. Canada is represented on 10 of ISTA's 20 Technical Committees and has not held an annual meeting here since 1983.

8:40 am: Economic Impact: How CDC's Crop Improvement Programs Drive Agriculture Returns

Marissa Janssen, Manager of the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, explained how crop innovation drives economic impact beyond just yield. The CDC spends > more than \$30M annually and has trained more than 420 students, published more than 600 peer-reviewed research papers, and released more than 500 new varieties since 1971. In 2024, CDC varieties were planted on almost 42% of the durum acreage, 50% of barley, 85% of pulse crops, and almost 100% of lentil acreage.

With a return on investment ratio of 11:1 for varieties developed, CDC's advanced breeding programs boost farm profitability, enhance global competitiveness, and create lasting value for producers, industry, and government.

9:00 am: CSGA Standards – "What's the latest and what are we working on?"

Michael Scheffel, CSGA's Managing Director, Policy and Standards, reminded attendees how CSGA standards are revised, that CSGA standards continuously evolve to reflect science, market needs, innovation and regulatory changes, and that they ensure varietal identity and purity, and support the international

harmonization with AOSCA and OECD, which is essential for Canadian exports. Recent changes include removing soybean and pulse crop isolation requirements from other crop kinds and revising forage and turf crop requirements for isolation and maximum impurity levels to focus on contaminants that can cross-pollinate or are difficult to distinguish in lab testing.

Current priorities include reviewing previous land use requirements, maximum impurity standards for cereal crops, and hemp crop isolation standards. He asked attendees where CSGA standards are creating challenges or where processes could be simpler or more efficient.

9:30 am: AOSCA Update - Dr. Sarah Wilbanks, CEO, Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies

With member agencies across the U.S. and seven member countries, Canada, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, AOSCA is a non-profit organization founded in 1919 to establish internationally recognized standards for high-quality seed certification. **Dr. Sarah Wilbanks** emphasized the importance of CSGA in AOSCA, in 1919 as a co-funder and today, with 1/3 of its certification acreage, with CSGA's Gail Harris leading its Certification Standards Council and Doug Miller as its incoming President.

Modernization work outlined by Dr. Wilbanks included a new inspector credentialing program, a complete update of its notoriously complex Yellow Book of certification standards, a new publicly available database of officially recognized variety descriptions, the AOSCA Academy which provides both leadership and technical training for upcoming professionals in the seed sector, and new marketing campaigns including a consumer landing page to communicate better what "certified seed" means to the public. She emphasized the value of a continental approach to seed certification with a shared commitment to quality and modernization and looked forward to AOSCA's 2027 annual meeting being hosted in Canada for the first time in many years.

10:30 am: CFIA Update - Patricia McAllister, Director, Plant Production Division, and Wendy Jahn, National Manager, Seed Section, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

This Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) update was on the final Pre-Canada Gazette Part I (CGI) Policy Paper with a progress report on the experimental co-development process, which began with a Needs Assessment Survey in 2021. The CFIA's 52 Proposals for Change, based on stakeholder recommendations and input from organization and Agency proposals, were summarized under three goals: reducing red tape and administrative burden, supporting marketplace competitiveness and innovation, and protecting farmers, consumers and the environment.

Significant proposed changes include the incorporation by reference of many key regulatory document requirements, an external seed advisory committee, a single window for digital data and several plans for alternative service delivery. Next steps include:

- July 2025: a CFIA summary that compares 52 Proposals for Change in current regulatory requirements
- August 2025: a virtual CFIA webinar meeting with sector stakeholders to review 52 Proposed Changes
- Fall 2025: engagement with indigenous stakeholders
- Early 2026: reports on indigenous engagement and on What We Heard from stakeholders
- Winter 2026: publication in Canada Gazette Part I

11:00 am: “From Scarcity to Precarity”- Dr. David Coletto, CEO of Abacus Data – Keynote Speaker

One of Canada’s most trusted public opinion analysts, **Dr. David Coletto**, offered a wake-up call to understand Canadians' thoughts. Coletto explained: “For years, Canadians lived with a sense of scarcity. Now we’ve moved into something more corrosive: a mindset of precarity. Scarcity is the fear of not having enough.”

Precarity is the fear that nothing will hold — not the food system, job market, or political structure. And this shift is now the dominant force shaping Canadian life. Coletto’s polling data shows an anxiety spike beginning late last year and accelerating in early 2025, anxiety about housing unaffordability, rising food prices, and the return of Donald Trump to the White House. “You are one of the last institutions Canadians still trust,” he said. “They think you care. They think you’re honest. And they think you’re being squeezed by the same systems that squeeze them, banks, grocery giants, telecoms.” That trust, Coletto emphasized, is powerful currency. In an age when Canadians are reevaluating careers and questioning systems they once took for granted, agriculture has a unique opportunity to lead, not just as an industry, but as a stabilizing force in society.

“We need institutions that can offer people a sense of certainty,” he said. “And the food system, your system, can be one of them: if you keep telling your story.”

1:00 pm: Tell Your Story – Social Media Workshop: Alison Mathews

Social media and communications expert **Alison Mathews** explained that marketing today isn’t just selling, it’s connecting - showing up as a real human who happens to run a modern, impressive business. AGM participants completed a worksheet to define what they value, who they serve, and how they talk; they then drafted a 160-character bio of who they are and why anyone should care. “This is the foundation of every communication decision you’ll make: online, in print, or face to face.” Mathews emphasized: “You already have a brand; you just haven’t distilled it into language you can use for posting online.”

For posting, she urged participants to post what they feel: themes like quality, innovation, farm life, community, and partnerships. “If you only post products, you’re boring and just selling. Posting feelings and values gives you balance.” Some of Mathew’s golden rules on posting were to show, not tell, use your own photos, speak like a human, and not outsource your personality to a template or a robot. She embraces AI but with a warning: “ChatGPT can give you a first draft. But it’s obvious and boring if you don’t rewrite it in your own voice.”

2:45 pm: New CSGA Projects in Action: Doug Miller, Executive Director (ED), CSGA

Three categories of rejuvenation and new projects are underway at CSGA, according to ED Doug Miller:

1. Modernization of core programs and functions: refreshing certification programs and standards to reflect science, technology, and market needs, reducing red tape and increasing system agility
 - a. Example: the AI pilot project for appraising soybean crop inspection reports
2. Membership expansion and engagement: broadening participation across the seed value chain to build a more representative and inclusive CSGA, and advancing our public good mandate, where CSGA can make a positive impact and provide value
 - a. Example: the launch of CSGA’s Affiliate and Association classes
3. Investing in future readiness: advancing innovation and digital tools, strengthening efficiency, traceability, transparency, and competitiveness in seed certification
 - a. Example: being the first Ag association in Canada to become AG DATA Transparent certified.

AGM Business Program (continued)

3:00 pm: Member-to-Member Session – for Active, Affiliate & Associate Members

Proposed Inflationary Fee Adjustment

Due to inflationary pressures and no fee increase since 2022, the CSGA Board of Directors proposes a 4.63% inflationary adjustment in CSGA fees starting February 1st, 2026. It does not include Branch or CFIA fees, and the 4.63 % adjustment is based on the average inflation rate from 2022 to 2024 (CPI). Executive Director Doug Miller explained that CSGA has capitalized on new revenue opportunities, reserves have been rebuilt, fees have not increased since 2022, and expenses have been reduced by \$660K (20%) between 2021 and 2023 and remain below 2021 levels. A modest fee adjustment now helps with rising costs and prevents a larger increase in the future.

Motion: to approve the 4.63% inflationary adjustment to all CSGA fees and services, effective February 1st, 2026, moved by André Lussier, seconded by Simon Ellis.

CARRIED*

Member Proposal 1: Continuance of AAFC for Varietal Plant Breeding, Research and Finishing

WHEREAS the AAFC have slowly moved away from finishing Varietal research, in turn shuttering research stations, test farms and plot sites, erasing invaluable Breeding capacity.

WHEREAS as a result, a loss of scientific and technical expertise and hoping that the private sector can fill the gap, but don't have the same mandate and economics to replicate the public Breeding initiative.

Motion: That CSGA encourage AAFC to continue the 100 + year research in Varietal Plant Breeding and finishing that accounts for all the environmental and disease adversities confronting the Canadian landscape, moved by Donald Sendziak, ABCSG; seconded by Lyndon Olson, SSGA, Adam Littman, SSGA and Steve Meinczinger, ABCSG.

CARRIED*

Discussion: Some members requested a progress report in 2026 on this Motion.

Member Proposal 2: Forage and Turf Breeder Seed Governance and Representation

WHEREAS the Canadian Seed Trade Association (now Seeds Canada) has an Agreement with AAFC to administer the Canadian Forage Seed Project (CFSP), with varieties tendered to Managing Companies years ago.

WHEREAS Breeder seed was to be produced by AAFC at Indian Head based on requests from Managing Companies selected and contracted to produce/allocate Foundation seed.

WHEREAS in recent years, seed growers have raised concerns about the lack of timely and reliable access to CFSP varieties — many of which are still economically important for domestic and international markets.

WHEREAS in looking into the issue, it seems that the accountability and transparency mechanisms built into the CFSP Agreement for Breeder and Foundation seed aren't being followed which has undermined the core operational functionality of the CFSP.

WHEREAS Peace Region Forage Seed Association representing BC & Alberta seed growers (PRFSA), the Manitoba Forage Seed Association (MFSA), and the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC), have discussed this issue and agree that changes are needed to ensure Canadian seed producers continue to have access to these varieties as export markets grow.

Motion: That the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA):

1. Report to members by no later than the 2026 CSGA AGM on the current status of the Canadian Forage Seed Project (CFSP), including challenges around governance, accessibility, and the production of high-generation seed stocks and identified opportunities for improvement.
2. Expand the mandate of the CSGA's Forage and Turf Working Group (FTWG) to act in an advisory capacity on CFSP-related issues, provide more transparency around CFSP varietal availability, and serve as a conduit for greater forage seed sector input.
3. Work collaboratively with AAFC and Seeds Canada to:
 - a. Reconvene the CFSP Committee (advisory body to Seeds Canada) on an immediate basis.
 - b. Modernize the structure and composition of the Advisory Committee, particularly the inclusion of forage seed producer organizations.
 - c. Support the development of a CFSP action plan that guarantees the production and accessibility of early-generation seed (Breeder and Foundation) for Canadian forage seed producers and Managing Companies.

Moved by Peace Region Forage Seed Association, seconded by Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission.

CARRIED*

Discussion: The Motion's proponents advised members that the average forage seed production acreage by > 580 growers in 2020-2024 was >130,000 acres, and forage seed exports were valued at > \$180M—\$200M.

Member Proposal 3: Regional Stewardship of Breeder and Foundation Seed for Public Forage Varieties

Motion: That the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) formally request that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), in collaboration with Seeds Canada and CSGA, take the following action:

1. Acknowledge and document where timely and sufficient production of quality breeder seed for public forage varieties has not been achieved under the Canadian Forage Seed Project (CFSP) or its successors.
2. Where such gaps exist, that AAFC as breeder of the public varieties, assign formal custodial responsibility for the production and revitalization of Breeder or Foundation seed (as defined under the Seeds Act) to regional seed producer organizations and qualified seed growers located in areas where the crop kind is commercially successful and already supported by the technical expertise of forage seed growers.
3. That this process include clear agreements and custodianship models for:
 - a. Maintenance of Breeder and/or Foundation classes;
 - b. Access to pre-basic classes for renewal;
 - c. Transparent communication of stewardship status to seed sector stakeholders.
4. That the CSGA, as the national certifying body, support this regional stewardship model through:
 - a. Coordination with Forage and Turf Working Group (FTWG) and breeder institutions;
 - b. Facilitating access to class standards under Circular 6; and
 - c. Encouraging transparency in variety status and renewal across certification classes.

Moved by Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, seconded by Danny Limoges.

CARRIED*

Discussion: Members were advised by the Motion's proponents that only 20% of Canadian forage seed exports are certified seed, and the lack of new Breeder seed from AAFC, for several varieties,

Adjournment

President Glenn Logan reminded members of the Awards Gala Dinner that evening and thanked them again for their ongoing dedication to producing high quality certified seed. At 4:15 pm PDT, the Business Program of CSGA's 2025 Annual General Meeting was adjourned.

7:00 pm Awards Gala Dinner

At the Awards Gala Dinner, President Glenn Logan thanked awards recipients for their dedicated spirit of excellence, their leadership and their lasting contributions to Canadian agriculture. He explained that CSGA annual awards include the Honorary Life Award, presented for distinguished service that has contributed to the betterment of CSGA, the seed sector and Canadian agriculture: the Robertson Associate Award, recognizing members who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to CSGA and who have contributed to the betterment of the seed sector and Canadian agriculture; and the Clark-Newman Clayton Award that recognizes outstanding achievement in plant breeding, administration and research.

Honorary Life Awards were presented to **Art Gorda** of Alberta and **Dr. Peter Pauls** of Ontario. Robertson Associate Awards were presented to **André Lussier** of Quebec, **Ron Market** of Alberta, **Jonathan Nyborg** of New Brunswick and **Joe Rennick** of Saskatchewan. **Dr. Pierre Hucl**, from the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre, received the Clarke-Newman-Clayton award and, as part of the award tradition, selected the University of Saskatchewan to nominate a post-graduate student involved in a project that benefits seed growers for a \$2,500 grant from CSGA.

In closing, President Logan thanked all for coming to Victoria to celebrate the achievements of these recipients, especially their spouses, partners, and families. He told them they were the backbone of our seed sector and the wind beneath its wings. Their dedication ensures that CSGA remains strong, innovative, and resilient.

**Unless otherwise noted, 'CARRIED' in these Minutes means that a Motion was supported unanimously.*