

Member Proposal Brief 2026 Annual General Meeting

Note: All proposals must follow formal resolution structure. Begin with one or more *WHEREAS* statements outlining the rationale, followed by a *BE IT RESOLVED* statement clearly identifying the action being proposed.

Proposal Title Forage and Turf Breeder Seed Management and Stewardship Designation

Motion

WHEREAS: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has closed down several research stations including AAFC Indian Head Seed Increase Unit (SIU), effectively terminating many public breeding and maintenance programs such as the Canadian Forage Seed Project (CFSP), a historical framework developed to coordinate early-generation seed regeneration and availability of turf and forage seed varieties publicly developed by AAFC.

WHEREAS: producer-check-off funded organizations and pedigreed seed growers – such as the Peace Region Forage Seed Association (BC & Alberta), Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Manitoba Forage Seed Association and McCardle Brothers (PEI) – have entered into a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) to acquire seed stock of several varieties still vital to the turf and forage seed industry.

WHEREAS: the organizations and growers listed above do not have the capacity to fund an entire breeding program to manage these varieties and instead will rely on the expertise of pedigreed seed growers and industry professionals to maintain seed stocks.

WHEREAS: there is a limited resource pool of forage breeders who can be contracted to oversee breeder plots.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Canadian Seed Growers' Association develop and implement a formal designation and accreditation process for "Recognized Breeder Seed Maintainers" that would permit qualified organizations and individuals to maintain accredited breeder seed stocks for publicly developed varieties where the original breeder or institution is no longer able or willing to fulfill that role;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: CSGA consult with industry stakeholders, variety owners, plant breeders, seed grower organizations, and provincial forage seed associations to establish eligibility requirements, quality assurance standards, record-keeping requirements, and oversight mechanisms for such a designation.

Brief Background on the Issue *(please limit to 150 words or less)*

The Canadian pedigreed seed system depends upon the integrity and availability of breeder seed. For many forage and turf varieties developed through public breeding programs, maintenance responsibilities have historically been coordinated through federal and provincial institutions such as the Canadian Forage Seed Project.

Recent reductions in public breeding capacity, closure of breeding programs, and changes to institutional priorities have resulted in a growing number of varieties for which long-term breeder seed stewardship is uncertain. While these varieties continue to provide substantial economic value to Canadian seed growers and agricultural producers, there is currently no nationally recognized mechanism that enables qualified third-party organizations to formally assume breeder seed maintenance responsibilities.



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Brief Background on the Issue *(continued)*

Without a clear pathway for stewardship succession, valuable genetics risk becoming unavailable to the pedigreed seed system despite continued commercial demand.

Additional Notes and Considerations *(please limit to 75 words or less)*

The Canadian pedigreed seed system requires a practical mechanism to ensure continuity of breeder seed maintenance as public breeding capacity evolves. Establishing a recognized “Breeder Seed Maintainer” designation would preserve valuable genetics, maintain confidence in varietal integrity, and provide an orderly succession framework for stewardship of publicly developed varieties.

Moved by	Peace Region Forage Seed Association
Seconded by	Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
Date	June 10, 2026