

Grain Growers of Canada

www.ggc-pgc.ca

Who We Are

- Atlantic Grains Council (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD)
- Alberta Barley Commission (AB)
- Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission (AB)
- British Columbia Grain Producers Association (BC)
- Canadian Canola Growers Association (BC, AB, SK, MB, ON)
- Manitoba Corn Growers Association (MB)
- Western Barley Growers Association (BC, AB, SK, MB)
- Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association (BC, AB, SK, MB)

- Each of the member farm organizations elect a director to serve on the board of the Grain Growers of Canada.
- Ross Ravelli – C.C.G.A.
- Allan Ling – A.G.C.
- Jim Smolik – B.C.G.P.A.
- Jeff Nielsen – W.B.G.A.
- Doug Robertson – A.B.C.
- Stephan Vandervalk – W.C.W.G.A.
- Gary Stanford – A.W.W.P.A.
- Bob Bartley – M.C.P.A.
- Richard Phillips - Executive Director, based in Ottawa

Working Committees

- Executive
- Trade
- Environment
- Safety Nets
- Transportation
- Governance
- Marketing
- Food Safety
- Biotechnology
- Staff or directors or grassroots members of the GGC organizations are often on these committees

What We Stand For

- At the heart of the Grain Growers' philosophy is the idea that Canadian grain producers are efficient, competitive and want to make their living from the marketplace.
- We see a bright future for Canadian agriculture and will work towards an environment that encourages research into seed, value added processing and the bio-products field.
- Our policies are forward-looking, market-driven, and support both science-based regulation and rules-based trade liberalization that capitalize on Canada's competitive advantage in producing grains and oilseeds.

What Do We Actually Do ?

- More than professional Parliamentary cocktail hounds !
- Following slides cover many of the key issues that have used both our Directors time and my time over the last two and a half months I have been here
- Not in an order of preference or priority

Canadian Wheat Board

- Presented a paper to Minister Strahl on the barley plebiscite – weighting of ballots, voters lists and wording of the questions
- Several press releases on the plebiscite
- Wrote a letter of support to Minister Strahl on CEO change
- “We appreciate that difficult decisions have had to been made, affecting both directors and staff of the Wheat Board.”
- “However, we would also like to stress that leadership isn’t easy and so we applaud you and your Government for both having a vision for agriculture and sticking to it.”

OUI - GROU

- Collaborating with CCGA, Pulse Canada and Cdn. Horticulture Council on the PMRA taskforce
- NAFTA labeling
- Meet with Croplife and its members
- Meet with FNA
- “Will the proposed replacement for OUI actually deliver results for farmers?”
- Final Meeting (hopefully) on Feb 22nd

Ag Policy Framework II - BRM

- Lobbied hard to ensure there were plenty of GGC reps at all of the steering committee meetings across Canada
- GGC Safety Net Committee has been active defining exactly what we want out of the new program to ensure a consistent message at meetings
- Sent a strong letter to the Minister on the GOPP \$\$ being clawed back by CAIS
- Asked him to reverse the decision, but that if he wasn't able to do that, then to consider using the value to increase producer reference margins

Biofuels

- Previous position was a lobbyist for the Canola Council of Canada
- Working very closely with both the Canola Council of Canada and the C.C.G.A. to ensure the package in this Federal budget is going to provide the parity needed for industry growth here in Canada
- Recently helped organize, participate in and evaluate a Parliamentary blitz by the provincial canola growers associations – over 40 key Members of Parliament in two days

National Forum on Seed

- We are fortunate to have Art Enns representing us on this working group
- Personal bias as a seed grower, but innovation in this sector and the requirement to have science based regulations to allow innovation is critical
- Looking ahead at “food as health” we are on the verge all kinds of specific end-use varieties
- Slow progress some days, but our thanks go to Art for his work

Canada – US Commodity Group

- Blair Rutter and I have had discussions with US Wheat about reactivating an earlier proposal
- Cam Dahl and others had worked with US commodity groups to see what issues we had in common that we could share info and intelligence on
- Possible coordinate lobby efforts and ensure we have the same message
- Simply share information

Working Closely with Member Organizations

- Trying to proactively share information from Ottawa on a timely basis
- “heard in the hallways”
- Notices of Committee meetings, sometimes on short notices
- Use the corporate knowledge of our members orgs, people like Blair Rutter, Mike Leslie and others
- Build relationships and a real sense of team amongst all of us

CAFTA

- Alanna may have reported, but as a Director of CAFTA we have been facing some staffing challenges
- Article 28 issues, is going to result in some work on our side
- Participate in ongoing updates from Geneva and the progress of other bi and multi lateral trade negotiations
- Sometimes it is frustrating, but squeaky wheels eventually get grease so we have to keep pressure on for trade

Ag Media

- If it wasn't reported, it never happened
- Building good working relationships with Ottawa people like Alex Binkley and Barry Wilson
- Want them to always think of you for comment
- Also working with Western Producer, MB Cooperator and the Farmers Independent Weekly, which are now merging – Jay Whetter, Dave Bedard, Ed White, Allan Dawson
- Have to get covered to get your message out

Work With Departmental People

- Often a tremendous source of corporate knowledge and memory
- To name just a few, people like Howard Migie, Harold Hedley, Craig Fulton, Patti Miller, Steve Verhuel, and Chris Moran !
- They know many of the nuances of Acts and regulations and how to get things done through “the system”
- Important to have a good working relationship and open lines of communication

Two last and very important slides

Ontario and Quebec Farm Groups

- Since the split, they found they didn't have the political clout they expected
- "Eastern Group"
- Have had numerous meetings with people like Ken Bee, Greg Devries (ON Soy), Peter Tuinema (ON Wht)
- Sitting down next week to pencil out the policy areas where we find common ground and where we can work together again
- Optimistic that the "ice has been broken" and we'll rebuild this back into a stronger national organization.

Political Relationships

- Work hard at developing a good rapport with both Ministers and backbench Members of Parliament
- Focus primarily on the Government side, not because of political familiarity, but because at the end of the day, it is the Party in power who will get things done
- However, we also maintain good working relationships with various members of the opposition parties
- Political staff

Grain Growers of Canada

- Representing you on the National stage !!