

Alberta Canola Policy Positions

(Updated August 2018)

Article I. General Policy Guideline

Section 1.01 Policy Development

- (a) Alberta Canola will work with the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) and the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) to develop policy in support of the canola industry in Canada.
- (b) Alberta Canola will work with Team Alberta (Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and the Alberta Barley and Wheat Commissions) and the Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG) to develop policy in support of the crop sector in Alberta.

Section 1.02 Activity

- (a) Alberta Canola represents canola farmers in Alberta on policy issues that impacts them.

Section 1.03 Regulations

- (a) Alberta Canola supports and advocates for scientific, credible and peer-reviewed regulatory regimes that are harmonized both domestically and internationally.

Article II. Government Policy

Section 2.01 Government Initiatives

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) All government regulations, policies, and programs must be transparent and open.
- (b) The Government of Canada’s objective for the voluntary reduction of trans fat from all sources.
- (c) The addition of canola and all canola products to the National Commodity List.

Section 2.02 Farm Risk Management

- (a) Alberta Canola supports a national farm risk management strategy that encompasses production and business risk management tools that are transparent, trade and market neutral, timely, and allows farmers to manage their risk over time.

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Section 2.03 Financial Assistance

- (a) Alberta Canola supports financial assistance to offset the rising of all energy-related costs to Alberta’s agriculture industry.
 - (i) *The maintenance of the farm fuel exemption for off road fuel use.*

Section 2.04 Taxation

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) The implementation of a provincial investment tax credit for Albertans who are willing to invest in innovative agricultural research and development.
- (b) The maintenance of the federal income tax deferral mechanism – Cash Purchase Tickets for grain.
- (c) The need for a federal government taxation system that must be comparative to our international competitors.

Article III. Marketing

Section 3.01 Canola Market

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) An open and transparent market for Canadian canola, for domestic and international market access for all market participants.
- (b) Component pricing of canola seed for the efficient transmission of end user demand signals.

Section 3.02 Grading

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) A system for objective and accurate grade determination of canola using instruments.
- (b) Equitable quality-oriented canola grading standards.
- (c) An independent, external review of the mandate of the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC).
- (d) Changes to the *Canada Grain Act* and modernizing the CGC, including a cost-recovery model for operations, so long as it benefits Alberta canola producers.

Article IV. Trade

Section 4.01 Domestic

Alberta Canola supports and encourages:

- (a) Free and unfettered interprovincial trade.
- (b) Researchers and seed developers to respect export market requirements as per the agriculture biotechnology stewardship recommendations.

Section 4.02 International

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) Open, free trade with zero-for-zero trade agreement for oilseeds and its byproducts.
- (b) Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that benefit canola producers and are consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) guidelines.

Section 4.03 Low Level Presence (LLP)

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) The implementation of a Low-Level Presence (LLP) policy in Canada.
- (b) The adoption of a global system to address LLP.

Article V. Transportation

Section 5.01 Grain Handling & Transportation System

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) An essential services grain handling and transportation system that is commercial in operation, open, competitive, efficient, affordable, performance accountable, and available to all parties.
- (b) The producer’s right to have access to producer cars.
- (c) The removal of regulations and legislation that causes inefficiencies in the western Canadian grain handling and transportation system.

Article VI. Crop Production

Section 6.01 Environment & Sustainability

Alberta Canola supports and advocates for:

- (a) Efforts directed at protecting Albertan, and subsequently Canadian, agriculture production in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.
- (b) A self-evaluated, voluntary farm plan with appropriate rewards.
- (c) International and interprovincial harmonization of environmental approval processes.
- (d) A proactive approach to emergency registration of crop protection products.
- (e) Appropriate and effective farm waste management systems and practices that are beneficial for producers and the environment.
- (f) Biotechnology that benefits the environment and reduces GHG emissions without negatively impacting canola producers.

Section 6.02 Crop Inputs

Alberta Canola supports:

(a) Pesticide Usage

- (i) Unrestricted availability of approved crop protection products and applications.*
- (ii) Replacement products when existing ones are withdrawn from the market.*

(b) Integrated Pest Management

- (i) Separate accounting of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency’s (PMRA’s) expenditures for pest control product regulation and pest management activities, and that the cost of PMRA pest management activities must not influence the cost of pest control products.*
- (ii) The farmers ability to control problem wildlife that cause crop damage.*

(c) Disputes

- (i) The role of the Farmers’ Advocate of Alberta in mediating disputes between canola growers and crop protection companies.*

Section 6.03 Farmer Saved Seed

- (a) Alberta Canola supports Canada’s participation in the international UPOV ‘91 treaty.

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Section 6.04 Farm Safety

- (a) Alberta Canola supports the protection of everyone visiting and working on farms and ranches through education and awareness of farm safety practices and the promotion of a farm safety culture.

Section 6.05 Landowner Rights

- (a) Alberta Canola supports initiatives that respect landowner’s rights.

Article VII. Regulation & Registration

Section 7.01 Variety Registration

Alberta Canola supports:

- (a) A timely and flexible registration system that is responsive to industry needs.
- (b) A canola variety registration system based on quality only for merit with evidence of collection for agronomic performance and disease resistance.
- (c) The use of “better than the checks” as recommendation criteria.
- (d) The removal of agronomic criteria, including yield, from the merit score, but the data must still be collected and published.
- (e) The CFIA in overseeing grower guidelines in seed production.
- (f) The implementation of a guaranteed seeds per bag system by seed companies.
- (g) The use of the term “resistant” being used only for varieties that are >90% resistant to diseases, and that the current “resistant” classification be replaced by “tolerant” for varieties that are between 30% and 90% resistant to diseases.
- (h) The Canola Performance Trials (CPT) in conducting varietal trials and data collection to provide growers with as much information as possible about new canola varieties.
- (i) Variety regulations that allow for the contract production of specialty canola varieties.
- (j) That seed developers have the option for products to be eligible for a 3-year interim registration based on 1 or more years of private trial data from at least 12 trial sites.

Article VIII. Innovation

Section 8.01 Advanced Biofuels

- (a) Alberta Canola supports the responsible and sensible use of regulatory and policy instruments to support the development of the advanced biofuel industry in Canada, which would maximize its impact on the domestic economy. The following are examples of such instruments:
- i) Increase the annual renewable diesel fuel content under the federal Renewable Fuels Regulation from 2% to 5%;*
 - ii) Investment incentive parity with the USA – i.e. 1\$/gallon blenders credit or faster capital depreciation, etc;*
 - iii) Quality parameters to ensure end user acceptance; and therefore, long-term success of the industry;*
 - iv) Instruments that encourage grower participation in value added production.*

Section 8.02 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

- (a) Alberta Canola supports the use of GMOs in canola production.

Section 8.03 Nutrition

Alberta Canola supports:

(a) Need for updates to nutrient content claims

- (i) The use of science-based nutrient content claims to assist Canadians in making healthier eating choices.*

(b) Inadequate levels of vitamin D fortification

- (i) The use of science-based recommendations to increase the amount of vitamin D available through fortified foods.*

(c) Prohibition of Partially Hydrogenated Oils (PHOs)

- (i) The elimination of the use of PHOs to limit the amount of trans fats in the Canadian diet.*

Section 8.04 Labeling

Alberta Canola supports and advocates for:

(a) SEED

- (i) Health Canada’s mandatory labeling guidelines for novel trait products when it is*

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shown that substantial equivalence is not present or when it is shown that an allergen has been introduced to the product.

(ii) The labeling of novel trait products based on the product change, not on the process employed to develop change.

(b) FOOD

(i) The use of a science-based Front-of Package (FOP) Nutrition Labeling system that is set at a national level and adopted nationally.

(ii) Clear and consistent FOP information on key nutrients.

Section 8.05 Statistics

(a) Alberta Canola encourages improvement in timeliness, consistency, and dependability of official Canadian canola statistics.

Article IX. Climate Leadership

Section 9.01 Climate Change

(a) Alberta Canola advocates for the Government of Alberta to recognize farmers’ continuous improvements in beneficial management practices, investments in machinery and technologies, and commitment to environmental stewardship that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by exempting all inputs, energy and fuel sources used on farms from the carbon levy.

(b) Alberta Canola recognizes that strong economic entities, both businesses and governments, are better able to prevent, mitigate, and adapt to the effects of climate change.

(c) Alberta Canola advocates for the Government of Alberta to recognize agriculture’s contribution to climate leadership and requests funds from Emissions Reduction Alberta be dedicated to an agriculture stream.

Section 9.02 Carbon

(a) Alberta Canola recognizes the effects of carbon emissions and works to help implement practical farming methods and practices that reduce carbon emissions from crop production.

(b) Alberta Canola supports agricultural offset programs, so long as they are sensible and beneficial to Alberta’s producers, and the policies and protocols are timely, effective, efficient, and do not in any way harm or impede the success of our producers.