



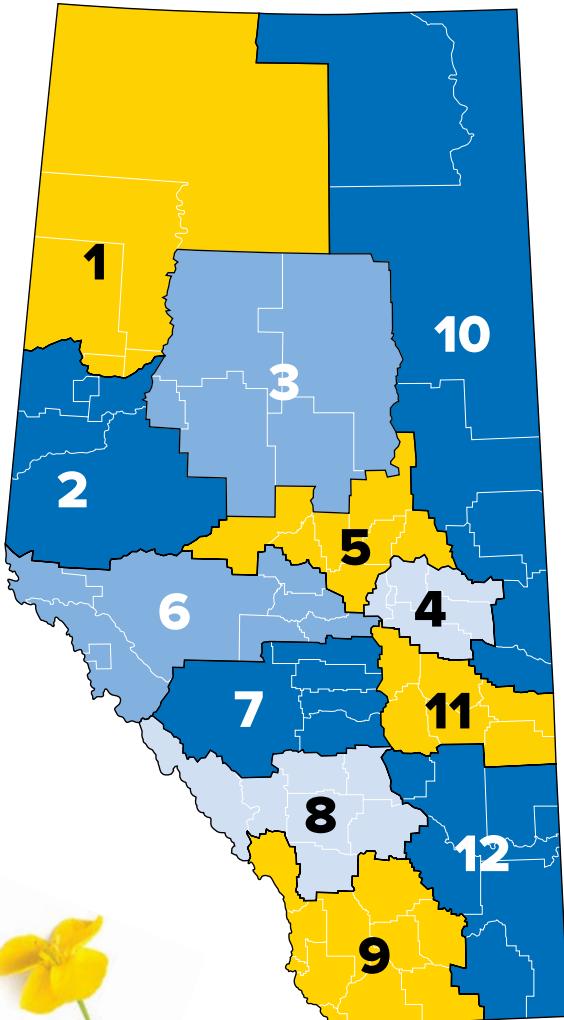
**ALBERTA CANOLA**

**NEWS & EVENTS**

**2024**

**SPRING**

# Regional DIRECTORS



**1**  
**Christi Friesen**  
Brownvale, AB  
780-618-5081



**2**  
**Andre Harpe**  
Valhalla Centre, AB  
780-814-0964



**3**  
**Charles Simoneau**  
Guy, AB  
780-837-6900



**4**  
**Jeannette Andraszewski**  
Two Hills, AB  
780-385-5633



**5**  
**Justin Nanninga**  
Neerlandia, AB  
780-307-4343



**6**  
**Wayne Schneider**  
Nisku, AB  
780-975-7605



**7**  
**Paula Law**  
Lacombe, AB  
403-348-1775



**8**  
**Jeff Frost**  
Olds, Alberta  
403-507-9202



**9**  
**Christine McKee**  
Stirling, AB  
403-635-7701



**10**  
**Cheryl Westman**  
Vermilion, AB  
780-581-3856



**11**  
**Roger Chevraux**  
Killam, AB  
780-385-6358



**12**  
**Alan Hampton**  
Rowley, AB  
403-823-0777

# Greetings from Roger Chevraux, CHAIR OF ALBERTA CANOLA



## Dear fellow canola farmer,

Following our Annual General Meeting in January, I was re-elected by the board to serve as Chair. I am excited to continue in this role leading our board of 12 regionally elected farmers that represent the more than 12,000 canola growers in Alberta.

Like you, I am gearing up for another busy growing season – but before we head to the fields, I want to update you on what we heard at our Grower Engagement Meetings, Alberta Canola Conference, and Annual General Meeting. Over the last few years, we have made a serious effort to engage with as many growers as possible to make sure that we are meeting your needs as an organization.

**It was great to hear so much support from farmers who agreed on the high importance of our core activities that are driven by our working committees. The feedback we received will further help us better serve our growers.** You can learn more about these activities in this newsletter and on [albertacanola.com](http://albertacanola.com).

We also discussed the financial health of the organization and our ability to continue (or expand) our existing suite of programs, projects, activities, and sponsorships all aimed at helping you succeed.

Over the last 20 years, canola production in Alberta grew substantially to a peak of almost 7 million tonnes in 2017 before declining to what is the anticipated new baseline of 5.25 million tonnes. The service charge of \$1 per tonne (roughly \$0.02 per bushel) of canola sold

accounts for over 90% of Alberta Canola's revenue and has declined alongside production.

On page 11, you can read more about the impact of this drop in revenue and what Alberta Canola has done to ensure all of our activities are valuable and efficient. The Board of Directors has some difficult decisions ahead – either cut programs and reduce project spending, or ask our eligible producers that fund the commission for an increase to the service charge for the first time since the Annual General Meeting in 2003.

Canola growers at our winter events expressed support for pursuing an increase in the service charge as soon as the 2025 Annual General Meeting. This is not a decision that will be taken lightly, and work is underway to develop a business case which will outline the options of a levy increase or the impact of significant cuts to programs. This will be presented to growers following harvest at our Grower Engagement Meetings in the fall of 2024.

Please feel free to contact myself, your regional director, or the staff at Alberta Canola if you have questions.

All the best for a safe and prosperous growing season,

**Roger Chevraux**  
Chair of Alberta Canola

# Alberta Canola in Grande Prairie

## Alberta Canola Conference, AGM, & Research Symposium

Jan 24 & 25, 2024

*BELOW: Farmers and industry participated in selecting their preferred canola research priorities in the Peace Region during the 2nd annual Research Symposium. Check out the voting results on page 9.*

*Following the AGM, Alberta Canola welcomed its new board, featuring both familiar faces and newcomer Jeff Frost, who now represents Region 11. See the full list of regions and board members on page 1.*



*Walter Paszkowski, seen here with microphone, asks a question of a speaker at the Alberta Canola Conference. Paszkowski was also recognized at a special event banquet recognizing decades of leadership from the Peace Region and his lifetime of leadership. See page 5 to learn more.*



*With a great turn out, both in person and online, Alberta Canola's 34th AGM took place in Grande Prairie. If you missed it, look to page 11 to read more about the important discussions regarding budgets and finances.*





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# The Blue Book

Alberta's Crop Protection Guide



Scientific



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Visit [albertabluebook.com](http://albertabluebook.com) to place your order of the 2024 Blue Book today.



The 2024 Blue Book is produced collaboratively by three of Alberta's crop commissions.

# CELEBRATING DECADES OF FARM LEADERSHIP

## from the Peace Region

BELOW: Walter Paszkowski says a few words to the audience after being honoured for a lifetime of leadership in the canola industry at the Alberta Canola Conference in Grande Prairie on January 24, 2024.

In recognition of Walter Paszkowski's lifelong contributions, leadership, and achievements, which have left an enduring impact on the canola industry and the communities he has tirelessly served, **Alberta Canola proudly unveiled the Walter Paszkowski Farm Leadership Award at the 2nd Annual Alberta Canola Conference.**



This newly established award aims to annually recognize and reward a deserving canola grower in Alberta with a \$5,000 bursary, to facilitate their participation in Farm Management Canada's esteemed National Farm Leadership Program.

"Mr. Walter Paszkowski was a driving force in creating the Alberta Canola Producers Commission," says Christine McKee, Chair of the Grower Engagement and Extension Committee. "The Walter Paszkowski Farm Leadership Award pays tribute to his legacy and dedication to canola, while emphasizing Alberta Canola's unwavering commitment to fostering leadership and excellence within the canola industry and within Alberta's rural communities."

Alberta Canola will be developing the application and selection guidelines with the first intake expected to open in the fall of 2024.

For further details and updates on the Walter Paszkowski Farm Leadership Award, please visit [albertacanola.com/leadership](http://albertacanola.com/leadership).

*Right: Alberta Canola directors Andre Harpe (L) and Christine McKee (R) present a print to Walter Paszkowski on stage at the 2nd Annual Alberta Canola Conference held this year in Grande Prairie on January 24 & 25.*



# THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CROP COMMISSIONS

## Safeguarding Agriculture for the Future



By **Bijon Brown** | SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

In the intricate tapestry of Canadian agriculture, crop commissions play a vital yet often overlooked role. Based on the 2021 Census of Agriculture conducted by Statistics Canada, Alberta had close to 14,000 producers of grain and oilseeds. Growers benefit, both directly and indirectly, from the work of the commissions, but many growers are not aware of the wide range of work done by commissions on their behalf. Commissions fund primary research for continued industry innovation and growth, engage with growers to communicate beneficial practices, advocate for the benefit of farmers on issues and policies that affect the farming community, and engage with the public to combat misinformation.

### CROP COMMISSIONS FUND IMPORTANT PRIMARY RESEARCH

One of the paramount functions of crop commissions is research and development. **Through funding and research initiatives, they strive to enhance crop productivity, quality, and sustainability.** This entails exploring innovative cultivation techniques, developing pest and disease management strategies, and adapting to changing environmental conditions. By staying at the forefront of scientific advancements, crop commissions empower farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to overcome challenges and optimize yields.

### CROP COMMISSIONS FOCUS ON GROWER ENGAGEMENT AND EXTENSION

Education and outreach are a cornerstone for many crop commissions' activities through **organizing workshops, seminars, and educational programs, crop commissions equip farmers with beneficial management practices, and information on technological advancements and market trends.** Through these initiatives, growers gain valuable insights into improving efficiency, reducing environmental impact, and navigating market complexities. Grower engagement and extension is perhaps the most tangible experience farmers have with their crop commissions. Most in the farming community have little interaction with their commissions outside of these activities but there is so much more that commissions do on the farmers' behalf.



### CROP COMMISSIONS ADVOCATE FOR FARMERS

Crop commissions also advocate for their respective industries, representing the interests of growers and allied businesses in policy-making arenas. **Advocacy is becoming an increasingly important role of crop commissions as they work to ensure the voice of farmers is represented on a variety of issues** including fair trade practices, sustainable agricultural policies, or addressing regulatory issues. The most recent example is the work of the commissions in raising the issue of drought and water management in the province of Alberta (see page 17). Commissions amplify the collective voice of farmers to influence decision-makers at provincial and national levels.

### SOME COMMISSIONS IMPLEMENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

**Some crop commissions play a crucial role in consumer education, fostering awareness about the nutritional benefits, safety standards, and sustainability practices associated with their crops.** The reputation of the agriculture industry is being eroded by misinformation

as more and more consumers are disconnected from how their food is produced. The work of commissions involves rebuilding these bridges and combating the misinformation about agriculture, especially on social media.

Crop commissions are indispensable pillars of the agricultural landscape, serving as catalysts for innovation, advocacy, and sustainability. As we confront the complex challenges of feeding a growing global population while preserving the health of our planet, the importance of crop commissions in shaping a resilient and sustainable agricultural future cannot be overstated.





## Alberta Canola is thrilled to announce the official launch of its newly redesigned website!

This marks a significant milestone in providing an improved and user-friendly platform for visitors. The revamped website showcases a modern design, streamlined navigation, and enhanced functionality.

The redesigned website features a contemporary layout, making it easier for users to navigate and access relevant information. The enhanced functionality aims to provide growers with a comprehensive resource hub, ensuring they stay informed about the latest developments within the canola industry.

The updated website reflects the changing priorities of both the organization and the canola growers that

visit the site. **There is an increased focus on the policy issues that affect farmers and the advocacy efforts of the commission.**

Karla Bergstrom, Executive Director of Alberta Canola, expressed the organization's vision for the upgraded website, stating, "Our goal is to establish a seamless online environment that reflects our dedication to support Alberta's canola growers by providing them with resources that assist them and their farms."

Visit the redesigned Alberta Canola website today at [albertacanola.com](http://albertacanola.com) to explore the wealth of resources and stay informed about the latest advancements shaping the canola industry.

# HARVESTING INSIGHTS



## Highlights from Alberta Canola's 2nd Annual Research Symposium – Unveiling Canola Farmers' Research Priorities for the Peace Region



**By Kathryn Knodel**  
RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Alberta Canola hosted its second annual Research Symposium at the Alberta Canola Conference in Grande Prairie on January 25th, 2024. A range of farmers and industry members participated in this half-day event focused on the research needs and priorities for Peace Region canola farmers.

The Research Symposium is an opportunity for Alberta Canola to engage with growers on what their production challenges are. Providing a platform for growers to connect with researchers, and offering a chance for growers to share their present and future research opportunities and threats directly to those who can research solutions.

The morning started with a 45-minute presentation, Canola Research in Motion, with the Canola Council of Canada agronomists Clint Jurke and Jason Casselman, providing an overview of past canola research and best management practices over the years. This included discussion on how major issues in canola have looked in the past, where they are today, and what they might look like in the future.



Following Clint and Jason was our Research Roundup, where we heard four 15-minute research updates provided by:

- **Dr. Shelley Hoover** – University of Lethbridge: Insect Pollinators
- **Jennifer Otani** – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Beaverlodge: Insect Management
- **Dr. Stephen Strelkov** – University of Alberta: Diseases (clubroot)
- **Dr. Kelly Turkington** – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Lacombe: Diseases

Following these updates, Canola Council of Canada’s Communications Manager, Jay Whetter, hosted an interactive panel to bring forward the questions and challenges of the canola industry in the Peace Region, and merge them with scientific considerations, ideas, and solutions.

The research symposium ended with an activity to help farmers and industry members cast their vote on what research topics are of importance to them.

**“An important aspect of the Research Symposium is recognizing that there are unlimited challenges but not unlimited funding”,** says Alan Hampton, Alberta Canola director and Research Committee Chair.

Alberta Canola has a \$1,000,000 budget to commit towards new research annually, a number that only goes so far with so many different production challenges needing research. Participants were each given \$5,000 in ‘Symposium Bucks’ to spend on their top research priorities and needs. This exercise not only allowed participants to voice their research priorities, but also experience the challenges of splitting finite funding resources between a myriad of important research areas. Farmers and industry participants were given different labelled bucks to identify the needs of each grouping separately.



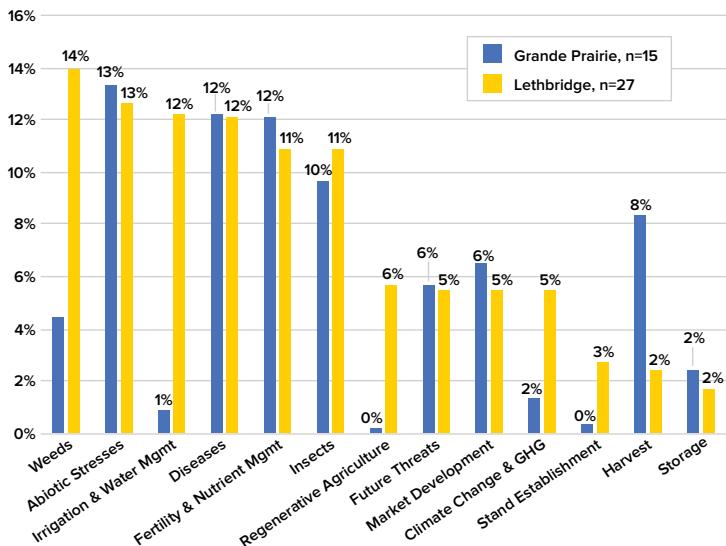
The results from the Grande Prairie symposium indicated the Peace River region farmer’s top three research priorities as abiotic stresses, diseases, and fertility & nutrient management. These results are essential for our Research Committee, as the committee considers the needs of growers when selecting new research projects to fund each year.

Last year’s research symposium took place in Lethbridge and the highest voted priorities of Lethbridge and Grande Prairie differed. Lethbridge farmers voted that their highest research priorities were in weeds, abiotic stresses, and irrigation & water management. The differences between research priorities from the two regions highlight the importance of this activity. **Farmer’s needs and priorities are not uniform across Alberta, so we**

**need to cater to a range of priorities for all the different regions.** Seeing that abiotic stresses were among the top three priorities between both Lethbridge and Grande Prairie signals to us that this is likely a topic of importance across Alberta.

The Research Symposium will continue to be part of the annual Alberta Canola Conference. Learning the production challenges and needs of farmers and industry in different geographical regions of Alberta helps to inform Alberta Canola’s research priorities and strengthen our ability to collect more focused research proposals from scientists. Stay tuned for a Research Symposium in your area!

**Percentage of ‘Symposium Bucks’ spent per category of total bucks by farmers in Lethbridge and Grande Prairie**



# Alberta Canola Financial Update

## BALANCING THE BUDGET



**By Rick Taillieu**

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT & ANALYTICS

Alberta Canola provides a financial update and presents an annual budget to growers at our regional meetings in the fall and at the annual general meeting in January. Each year, the organization estimates the amount of revenue it will collect from the service charge when growers in Alberta deliver canola to elevators and crush plants. This service charge accounts for over 90% of the commissions total revenue which is then invested in research funding, policy and advocacy efforts, grower engagement and extension, and public engagement and promotion.

I have presented the financials and the budget more than 100 times over my 15 years at Alberta Canola, but this year was very different as I was asked by the board to report on the financial health of the organization over the last 20 years.

On an annual basis, the budget is never perfectly balanced. We make commitments on the expenditure side beginning with our preliminary budget in June based on estimates of canola production in Alberta, while assuming a normal flow of canola sales and delivery.

### 2004 TO 2017 – THE DRAMATIC RISE IN CANOLA PRODUCTION

The widespread drought experienced in Alberta in 2002 resulted in barely enough revenue to keep the

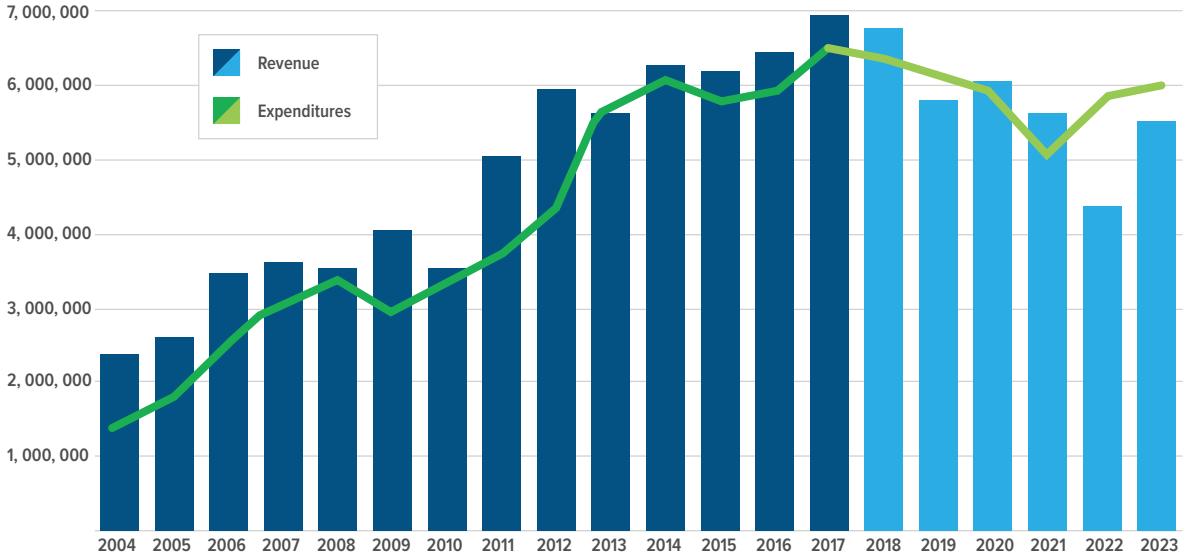
doors open and the budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year was slashed dramatically. Most notably research commitments had to be abandoned mid-project.

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting, eligible producers voted to increase the service charge (levy/checkoff) from \$0.50 per tonne to \$1.00 per tonne (roughly \$0.02 per bushel). This provided Alberta Canola with stability which opened the door to new opportunities to fund projects and programs that benefit the growers.

Canola production escalated very quickly over the next 15 years as innovations like herbicide tolerance and hybrid varieties transformed canola production. During this time, global demand also made canola the most profitable crop for many farms.

In 2004, the first year of the new \$1 per tonne service charge, Alberta Canola's revenue was \$2.2 million. Driven by annual increases in canola production, revenue continually increased to a peak of just under \$7 million in 2017. During this period, the board worked to ensure that the influx of revenue was invested in projects that would benefit the growers, while also building resiliency by establishing a crop failure contingency fund and ensuring revenue is set aside each year for approved research projects to guarantee funding throughout the project term.

# Revenue & Expenditures



## 2018 TO 2024 – ADJUSTING TO A NEW LEVEL OF CANOLA PRODUCTION

Over the last six years canola production has decreased in Alberta. Canola acres have decreased as rotations diversified with improved prices and profitability in cereal and pulse crops. The drop in acres has coincided with canola yields flattening. Production fell significantly across Alberta with widespread moisture deficiencies in 2021.

**Revenues for Alberta Canola have declined almost 25% from a peak of nearly \$7 million to under \$5.5 million on an annual basis.** This decline in revenue has unfortunately coincided not only with a period of rapid inflation, but also with decreased

government support for agriculture programs, both nationally and provincially.

This has led to deficit budgets in five of the six years. The commission continually examines the expenditures of all projects and programs to ensure a return on the investment of grower dollars. During this period, the shutdown of many activities due to the pandemic provided some temporary relief on the expenditure side as activities were limited. Alberta Canola has absorbed annual deficits by drawing on the reserves built up over a 14-year period from 2004 to 2017.



Scan to watch



The financial presentation from this past winter was condensed into a 13-minute video for our online grower engagement meeting and was also shown during the 2024 annual general meeting.

To watch the video, go to [albertacanola.com/financial-update](https://albertacanola.com/financial-update)

## 2025 AND BEYOND

Simply put, Alberta Canola must re-balance its budget going forward. This means either decreasing expenses or increasing revenue – and both options are on the table.

Decreasing expenditures has moved beyond sharpening our pencils to find savings to now having to eliminate entire projects and programs that growers value.

Increasing revenue can only be achieved in two ways, either through increased canola production or by increasing the service charge for the first time in 20 years. With canola acres and yields plateauing, the only way to keep the existing programs and projects will be to ask you, the grower, to contribute more than \$1 per tonne when you deliver canola.

Over the next several months Alberta Canola will be looking at the impact of reducing the budget

by approximately \$1 million dollars to start, with ongoing reductions to keep pace with annual inflation. This will be done in conjunction with developing a business case that would support a service charge increase to maintain core programs and to restore financial sustainability for Alberta Canola.

We started this discussion with growers at our events this past winter, and the direction we received was to present the business plan at our grower engagement events in the fall of 2024 and to be prepared to ask for the service charge increase at the Annual General Meeting in January 2025 to take effect on August 1, 2025.

The financial presentation from this past winter was condensed into a 13-minute video for our online grower engagement meeting and was also shown during the 2024 Annual General Meeting. To watch the video, visit [albertacanola.com/financial-update](https://albertacanola.com/financial-update).

# AGRONOMY INSIGHT

## Common Practices Seen Among Top Canola Growers



**By Clinton Jurke**

AGRONOMY DIRECTOR,  
CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA

When it comes to canola agronomy, what do farmers typically get right and what do they get wrong? I was fortunate to moderate a panel of local agronomists at Agri-Visions Conference & Tradeshow in Lloydminster in February. Dave Cubbon of Meadow Lake, SK, James Oberhofer of Marwayne, AB, and Mike Palmier of Plenty, SK discussed the top 5 agronomic tips to be successful in 2024. I was surprised there was not more overlap in their tips, but a central theme emerged: **Successful farmers pay attention to detail.**

Every decision a farmer makes has a margin of error, they said, and each decision can potentially move yield and profit up or down a percentage point at a time. The most successful growers are those who pay attention to each of those percentage points to maximize their profit.

They provided the following common practices among top growers:

- **Don't allow soil phosphorus to decline.** All three agronomists agreed this is a major problem in all soils. They recommend including enough P to replace what is removed in the grain.
- **Leave stubble intact.** In wet or dry conditions, tillage typically makes the situation worse. Managing soil moisture and erosion are key to top yields.
- **Soil test.** This seems to be a basic recommendation, yet they said the majority of growers are not testing and are guessing what nutrients are needed.
- **Proactively managing herbicide resistant weeds before they arrive on the farm.** Growers successful at managing herbicide resistant kochia and other weeds have a plan before the weeds arrive. Tank mixing is the first step.
- **Manage declining soil pH.** Adding lime or wood ash will help improve soil productivity. Know which fertilizers contribute to increasing acidity.
- **Manage unproductive and unprofitable acres.** Using zone maps and variable rate inputs, taking unproductive acres out of production or utilizing drainage are all methods to improve profitability in a field.
- **Choose the right cultivar (variety or hybrid) for each field.** There are nearly a hundred canola cultivars on the market all with a different mix of disease, herbicide, maturity, harvest, and other traits. Each field will need a different package of traits.



# SEEDING KNOWLEDGE, GROWING CONNECTIONS

## Alberta Canola continues to connect with community and educators across the province



**By Louise Labonte**

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT &  
PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

**When we connect with people beyond our circles, we bring awareness and become aware, we talk through misconceptions, and work towards building positive relationships.**

Alberta Canola has spent much of the past few months on the road connecting with teachers, students, and parents at events across the province. At student-focused events, such as Outstanding in the Field, we discussed canola and provided students with a hands-on experiment crushing canola seeds. This experience allows young learners to discover firsthand where the golden, heart healthy oil comes from. We also partnered with The Alberta Pulse Growers to attend Evolve - the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Conference and the Alberta Teachers Association Science Council Conference. These educator-focused events provide the opportunity to present activities, resources, and teaching strategies that tie agriculture to curriculum objectives. Educators can then bring these tools back to their classrooms across the province.

Our sponsorship of the Advancing Women in Agriculture conference took region 9 director, Christine McKee, to Calgary in March to mentor and support young women pursuing careers

in agriculture. This 3-day event highlights women in agriculture and provides the opportunity for women working or interested in ag careers to network, connect, and build relationships across the agricultural industry.

In April, we will take the opportunity to connect with the future workforce by attending and presenting at EPIC (Exploring Possible Industries & Careers) Day in Lethbridge. This event dedicates a day for students grade 9 to 12 to explore career possibilities and our focus this year is to feature Agrology. Alberta Canola will be joined by two agrologists – Marissa Robitaille-Balog and Autumn Barnes – who will present to and speak with students about their role in canola production and farming. They will highlight how students can work towards a career in agrology and explain the numerous careers that can stem from the study of agriculture.

We are also excited to be sponsoring the Know Your Food Trailer and continue to build our partnership with Ag4Life. Engaging Albertans across the province in meaningful conversations around agriculture and food production, this mobile agricultural learning experience will soon be visiting communities and schools across the province!





### LEARNING IS FUN WITH CHASE DUFFY!

The Chase Duffy graphic novel series produced by Alberta Canola introduces canola, farming, and agriculture to teachers, students, and parents while making connections to curriculum across many subjects. The Chase Duffy graphic novels offer activities in numeracy, literacy, science, and health and have multiple points of connection to the Alberta Education Program of Studies for K-6 learners.

We also offer learning resources for junior and senior high school teachers that connect topics such as sustainability, biotechnology, agronomy, and nutrition to curriculum, while providing teaching strategies and activities.

All educational resources are available for free and can be ordered as classroom resources at [learncanola.com](http://learncanola.com).



### ALBERTA CANOLA AND THE NCMP (NATIONAL CANOLA MARKETING PROGRAM)

The National Canola Marketing Program set out in the fall of 2022 to better promote canola in Canada. This joint effort between Manitoba Canola Growers Association, SaskCanola, and Alberta Canola, set out to coalesce marketing and promotional resources, to build a campaign that would increase national awareness and demand of canola and all the by-products and end uses. With the guidance and expertise of our marketing agency, we brought to life a campaign and a brand that will increase awareness, national pride, and demand for canola! A campaign to meet Canadians where they are and be relevant in their daily lives, this is our year to expand storytelling beyond food and health to celebrate all the ways that canola positively impacts us and the world. With an approach that is friendly, humble, and authentic.

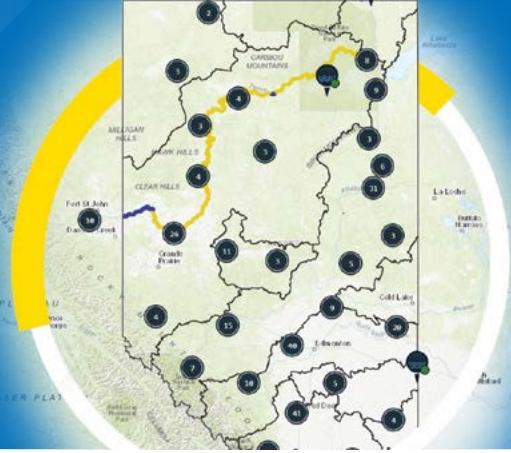
### WELCOME “HELLO CANOLA!”

The Goal: Make the knowledge of, use of, and support of Canola as a near-universal fact for all Canadians.

The Objective: Building a positive reputation for Canola by moving Canadians from apathy to love of Canola.

Look for this fully digital campaign at [hellocanola.ca](http://hellocanola.ca) and [@hellocanola](#) on Instagram, Facebook, X, and YouTube.

# NAVIGATING DROUGHT CHALLENGES



## Alberta’s Water Management Initiatives and the Push for Sustainable Solutions



**By Will Holowaychuk**  
POLICY ANALYST

No matter where you are in Alberta, the difference in moisture patterns this winter was notable and has created a compounded effect after multiple years of moisture deficiency. The water levels in reservoirs in Southern Alberta that support the irrigation infrastructure are below the yearly average (see figure 1) and bi-weekly updates can be found online in the Provincial Reservoir Storage Summary. According to a Saddle Hill County update on February 14, many areas of the Peace Region have not seen snowpacks this low in approximately 50 years.

Planning for the year ahead is already well under way as the Government of Alberta has established that the province is currently in a Stage 4 water shortage management level. This means that large scale basin and provincial drought condition areas are anticipated throughout the province. Collaboration between multiple government ministries to develop and monitor resiliency plans have been in development. The Government of Alberta has increased their monitoring and data analysis capabilities to better predict river flows, apportionment of water levels across Alberta borders, reservoir levels, and water demand. The various apportionment agreements between the Prairie provinces and US government establish the amount

**Alberta Reservoir Levels as of February 22nd, 2024**

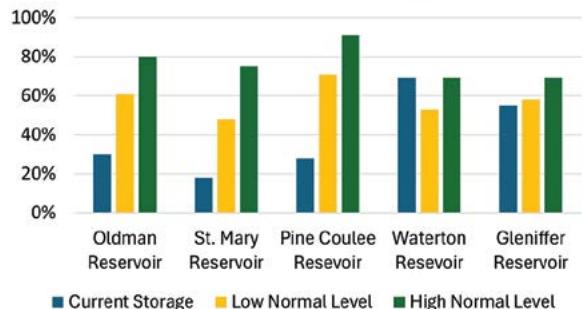


Figure 1, Provincial Reservoir Storage Summary updated Feb 22

of water that must flow across the border. For the major rivers that cross into Saskatchewan, Alberta is required to let at least 50% of the river flow pass through our province and into Saskatchewan. In 2023, the apportionment level was calculated to equal 61%. Increased monitoring and analysis modeling was considered necessary to better manage the apportionment water amounts so that Alberta uses the full share it is entitled to. The most up-to-date water monitoring data can be found at [alberta.ca/drought-current-conditions](http://alberta.ca/drought-current-conditions).

## Additional Resources

More information on drought conditions and what the province is doing at [alberta.ca/drought](https://alberta.ca/drought)

For more information and tools to assist with on-farm business management and production go to [alberta.ca/farming-in-dry-conditions](https://alberta.ca/farming-in-dry-conditions)

Check out the interactive map with water measure updates from the provincial government at [rivers.alberta.ca](https://rivers.alberta.ca)



**Being aware of the potential drought conditions, the potential limits to water access, and what can be done to conserve water is critically important for every canola producer and all Albertans.**

The current priority is to establish water sharing agreements among the large water rights licensees from the major basins. Water diversions in the province are managed through water licenses granted under the Water Act, where a license holder would be permitted to divert and withdraw an allocated amount of water from a specified source. A water sharing agreement is a voluntary working agreement between major license holders of a specific water basin that, ideally, establishes how the burden of reduced water access is shared fairly, as opposed to determining access simply by license priority which could cause some lower priority license holders to be left high and dry. The water sharing agreement negotiations kicked off in early February and have engaged over 90% of the licensees and include municipalities, industrial water users, agricultural processors, and irrigation districts working to collaborate to ensure that no user is left behind for access to water. Individuals can sign up for notifications and updates as new reports are posted at [alberta.ca/news-subscriptions](https://alberta.ca/news-subscriptions).

Being aware of the potential drought conditions, the potential limits to water access, and what can be done to conserve water is critically important for every canola producer and all Albertans. **Alberta Canola is staying on top of these ongoing issues and continues to ensure the voice of the crop production sector is heard in every step of the process.** Alberta Canola is also advocating for long-term improvements to large-scale and on-farm

water management strategies that enable the province and all its sectors to be more resilient and efficient in managing this critical resource. **Water in Alberta needs to be managed and protected through a coordinated stewardship effort of municipalities, industries, the agricultural sector, and Alberta's residents.** Managing water through drought conditions is key in sustaining agricultural livelihoods which have crucial economic impact in our province and to our abilities to help feed the world.



# FARM FINANCING THAT WORKS WITH YOU



## FOR FOUR DECADES, CCGA HAS PROVIDED CANADIAN CANOLA FARMERS ACCESS TO CASH ADVANCES THROUGH THE ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM.

Designed especially for farmers, a cash advance offers flexibility and cost savings with interest-free and low-interest financing benefits. With no restrictions on how it can be used, a cash advance is a smart business decision for any season.



“With the combined benefits of interest-free and an interest-bearing rate below prime, a cash advance from CCGA continues to be one of the lowest-cost options for short-term farm financing,” says Dave Gallant, CCGA’s Vice-President, Finance & APP Operations. “And for young farmers, or those just starting out, a cash advance is an excellent financing option because of the minimal collateral requirements and competitive rates.”

Every year, thousands of Western Canadian farmers work with a cash advance to get their growing season off to a good start.

## WHY A CASH ADVANCE FROM CCGA?

We’re your one-stop-shop to apply on 50+ commodities, including all major field crops, honey, and large and small livestock. We’re continually listening to feedback to improve our service both on the phone and online.

Our knowledgeable staff are here to answer questions and make applying for a cash advance convenient for you.

Apply by calling CCGA at **1-866-745-2256**. Returning customers can apply online.



**DISCOVER MORE  
ABOUT CASH ADVANCE  
AT CCGA.CA**



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Advance Payments  
Program

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Programme de  
paiements anticipés

The Advance Payments Program is a federal program administered by CCGA. It offers Canadian farmers marketing flexibility through interest-free and low-interest cash advances.



# LEADING CHANGE

YEAR IN REVIEW  
2022-2023

Never has the breadth of policy issues impacting agriculture been so extensive, creating both opportunities and concerns for the future of Canada's 43,000 canola farmers.

For nearly 40 years, Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) has been at the forefront of driving change for canola farmers, representing their interests on national and international agricultural issues, programs, and policies.

Read CCGA's Year in Review to see where change is happening and how the organization is engaged in Helping Farmers Succeed.

Download a free copy and learn more at

[ccga.ca](https://ccga.ca)



**"Through organizations like CCGA, we have tremendous opportunities to connect with policymakers and have our voices heard on the issues that matter to our farms today and tomorrow."**

**Mike Ammeter**  
*CCGA Past Chair, Alberta Farmer*



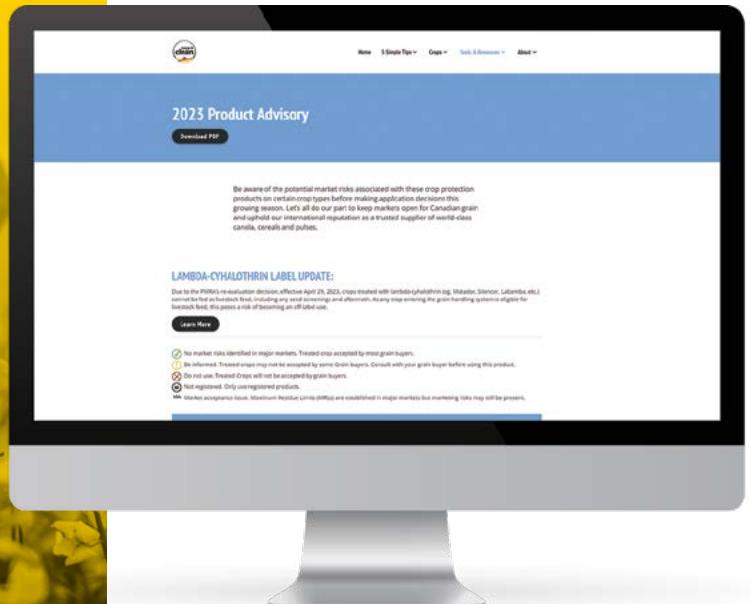
# KEEP IT CLEAN TIPS FOR MARKET-READY CROPS

Each of us has a role to play in ensuring crops meet the requirements of our domestic and export customers. Keep it Clean is reminding growers that together we can work towards protecting the quality and reputation of Canadian crops and help keep markets open for all.

Keep it Clean has developed **5 Tips** to help you keep your crops ready for market:

## TIP#1 | Use Acceptable Pesticides Only

Only apply pesticides that are registered for use on your crop in Canada and are acceptable to both domestic and export customers. Refer to the annual product advisory available on [KeepItClean.ca](https://www.KeepItClean.ca) for information on market considerations and classifications on specific crop protection products.



## TIP#2 | Always Read And Follow The Label

Before you spray, always read and follow the crop protection label for application rate, timing and pre-harvest interval (PHI). Applying pesticides or desiccants without following label directions is illegal and may result in unacceptable residues, putting market access at risk.

## TIP#3 | Manage Disease Pressures

An integrated disease management plan is important to maintain yield and profitability and can help protect Canada's reputation as a supplier of high-quality canola, cereals and pulses.

## TIP#4 | Store Your Crop Properly

Proper storage helps maintain crop quality and keeps the bulk free of harmful cross-contaminants.

## TIP#5 | Deliver What You Declare

The Declaration of Eligibility affidavit is a legal assertion that your crop is the variety and/or class you have designated and was not treated with the crop input products specified in the declaration.

For more information on these tips plus additional tools to keep your crops ready for market, head to [KeepItClean.ca/tools](https://www.KeepItClean.ca/tools), follow Keep it Clean on Twitter at [@KICCanada](https://twitter.com/KICCanada), or sign up for their free newsletter on their website.

— *Keep it Clean is a joint initiative of the Canola Council of Canada, Cereals Canada, Pulse Canada and the Prairie Oat Growers Association, providing growers and crop advisers with resources for growing market-ready crops. This includes providing timely updates on potential market risks and resources for on-farm practices to ensure crops meet the standards of domestic and export customers.*





14560-116 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5M 3E9



Phone: 780-454-0844  
Fax: 780-451-6933



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