



FALL 2023

NEWS & EVENTS

Alberta Canola IN THE FIELD AND AT THE TABLE

BELOW: Alberta Canola director Ian Chitwood and other Team Alberta Crops representatives had an introductory meeting with Minister MacAulay, Deputy Minister Beck and team. They discussed issues that affect farmers like PMRA, Gene-editing and transportation.



Sarah Chudley at Calgary Stampede answering questions from the public and demonstrating how canola seeds are crushed to make canola oil.



The International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) hosted hundreds of journalists from around the world, and Alberta Canola coordinated a tour to showcase canola on the world stage.



Greetings from Wayne Schneider, REGION 6 DIRECTOR



Dear fellow canola farmer,

I'm Wayne Schneider, a proud canola grower from Nisku, Alberta. I am honoured to be your regional director representing canola farmers on Alberta Canola's Board of Directors.

With another busy growing season behind us, we are looking forward to our Grower Engagement Meetings this winter.

Over the last few years, Alberta Canola has consolidated its 12 individual regional meetings into 4 in-person and 1 online Grower Engagement Meetings. This change has increased our level of engagement with you the grower, by having senior staff and 3 directors at each location. This change in format has been well received by those attending our newly formatted Grower Engagement Meetings.

This year, I am partnering with my fellow directors Justin Nanninga and Paula Law to co-host our Grower Engagement Meeting on December 14 in Westlock at the Westlock Community Hall.

I invite you to join us and learn more about the work that Alberta Canola is doing on behalf of the 12,000 eligible producers that grow canola in Alberta. You will get to hear from each of Alberta Canola's working committees in addition to guest speakers presenting on canola agronomy and farm safety.

Alberta Canola's working committees are:

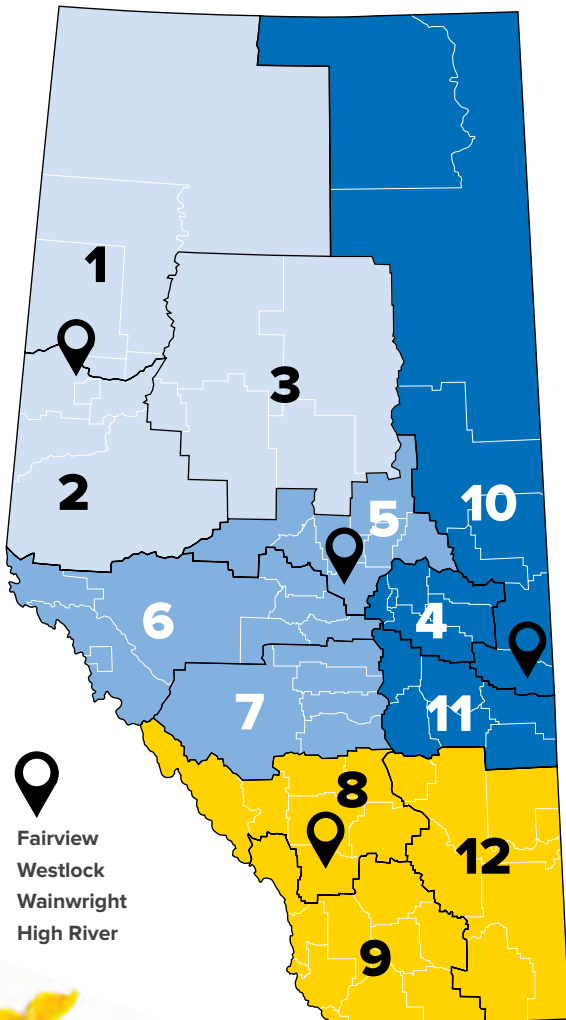
- Governance & Finance – the financial health of the organization
- Government & Industry Affairs - the policy and advocacy work we do
- Grower Engagement & Extension – the resources we provide to growers
- Public Engagement & Promotion – the work we do with consumers & educators
- Research – the investments and partnerships that drive innovation for you

Your participation is not only a chance to stay informed about Alberta Canola's initiatives, but also an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Your concerns and ideas are invaluable in helping me represent your interests effectively, ultimately strengthening Alberta Canola as an organization.

I hope you take the time to read this newsletter and please feel free to reach out to myself, my fellow directors, or the staff at Alberta Canola with any questions you may have. Your engagement and feedback are vital to our shared success.

Looking forward to chatting with you,
Wayne Schneider

Regional DIRECTORS



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9

**Christine
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Stirling, AB
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12

**Alan
Hampton**

Rowley, AB
403-823-0777

 **Grower Engagement Meetings return this fall,**
be sure to join your Alberta Canola directors, staff, and guest speakers at a meeting near you:

November 21 - High River
November 23 - Wainwright
December 12 - Fairview
December 14 - Westlock
December 19 - Online Broadcast
Hosted by Dianne Finstad

Join us to learn what Alberta Canola is doing to help farmers succeed. Discuss our research investments, our policy & advocacy work to ensure your voice is heard, and our efforts to engage consumers and educators about canola.

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE TODAY AT: [ALBERTACANOLA.COM/GEM](https://albertacanola.com/gem)

Learn more about some of the topics Alberta Canola staff will be discussing at the upcoming Grower Engagement Meetings:



Louise Labonte | PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

Connecting the Community to Canola: Getting agriculture in the classroom, the new national marketing campaign and canola farmers on tv and radio!

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 8**



Kathryn Knodel | RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Putting the Emphasis on Environmental Stewardship: Review of research projects funded by Alberta Canola and exploring opportunities in on-farm living labs research projects.

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 10**



Bijon Brown | SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Examining the land use trends which highlight agricultural land losses in Alberta over the past decade. What can be done to ensure land availability for the future of canola in Alberta?

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 13**

Alberta 2023 GROWING SEASON REVIEW



After a dry winter, warm temperatures in April increased drought concerns for farmers in Alberta. Though the dry early season conditions allowed farmers in many regions of Alberta to get into fields as early as soil temperatures allowed, precipitation considerations played a notable factor in seeding decisions. Spring soil moisture estimates were below average in much of the Prairies – which was especially a problem in north and central Alberta, where forest fire season started early. High temperatures continued in Alberta throughout most of the growing season, with a few short periods of relief in July. Moisture concerns remained throughout the season in most of the province, though areas north and west of Edmonton had received above average precipitation by harvest time.

The challenging spring exaggerated any seeding issues, nutrient use efficiencies and stand establishment stressors in canola fields. While flea beetle feeding caused some defoliation, it wasn't as big of a concern for most growers as in the few recent years. Cutworms reduced plant stands in several fields, alfalfa loopers were found in several fields and there were reports of wireworms, seedling disease and weed management in early stands.

Throughout the season flowering issues with the mainstem caused concern as well as the unevenness or variable plant stages of the crop. Aster yellows and alternaria disease was noticed in more fields than the last few years and blackleg, sclerotinia and clubroot remain major concerns for all canola growers (though the dry conditions likely reduced the number of fungicide applications that sclerotinia risk would've incited). Late season scouting this year would've also included checking for verticillium stripe disease, which has previously been reported in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Grasshoppers weren't a significant issue in the majority the province, though populations were reported in many areas. Weed control, particularly the management of kochia (especially glyphosate-resistant kochia) was again a notable challenge this growing season –for the nutrients and limited moisture that it may steal from the crop, for the propagation concerns it will cause in future seasons and for the moisture content and subsequent heating risk that it can contribute to when in bin of harvested canola.



Fields of reflowering canola were reported by some farmers at swath/preharvest timing due to later season precipitation, while trying to limit harvest losses was a late season priority for other farmers.

INVESTIGATING CANOLA PRODUCTION IN THE BROWN SOIL ZONE

The dark brown and brown soil zones (BSZ) have been a region of low canola acreage, likely due to the greater incidence of drought, high temperatures, and has relatively lower organic matter than other Prairie soils. However, projected increased processing capacity in this area has renewed interest for canola as a potential profitable rotation option. It could also be an opportunity to increase canola supply in alignment with the canola industry's strategic canola production goals.

A 2022 survey of agronomists and producers in the BSZ identified nutrient management and plant establishment as key challenges in this region. To investigate these challenges, the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) established six demonstration sites in the brown soil zone regions of Alberta (at Coalhurst, Taber, Lethbridge and Oyen) and Saskatchewan (at Avonlea and Swift Current) in 2023. The sites were carried out in collaboration and with support from Hytech Production Ltd, BASF, Chinook Applied Research Association, Palliser Triangle Research, Wheatland Conservation Area and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The sites featured two different nitrogen rates (100% of the recommended rate banded prior to/at seeding and 70% of the recommended rate applied at seeding plus a 30% top-dress, usually with a

urease inhibitor), two seeding depths (three quarters of an inch and two inches deep) and seeding rates (five and ten seeds per square foot).

Throughout the growing season, these sites hosted a total of seven field tours for canola growers and agronomists in the region. In addition to the sites providing some information on canola nutrient management and plant establishment in this region, the tours provided an excellent opportunity for growers and agronomists to discuss canola production options in this area with each other, the site managers and with the CCC agronomy specialists in attendance.

Observational field notes and harvest data from the five completed demonstration sites (as Coalhurst, AB site was cancelled) will be compiled, summarized and shared through the CCC communication channels this winter. Discussion on potential BSZ sites for 2024 will also be explored.

*Consider attending Canola Week in Calgary.
To learn more, visit canolacouncil.org/event/canola-week-2023*



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY to canola



By Louise Labonte

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND
PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

GETTING AGRICULTURE INTO THE CLASSROOM

With a new school year underway, Alberta Canola is gearing up to get more agricultural content in the classroom and in front of educators, whether that's through events, resources, or entirely new approaches.

A few of the educational events where we're presenting include Outstanding in the Field, Evolve - Career and Technology Education Council Conference, and the Alberta Teachers Association Science Council Conference. In collaboration with the Alberta Pulse Growers, we're also expanding the resources we offer teachers to take back to their classrooms by creating presentations, teaching strategies, and activities that connect curriculum to farming and canola.

Another priority is to open conversations with the Ministry of Education to initiate a framework for building agriculture-focused curriculum in the Alberta Education: Program of Studies. With agriculture being one of the largest economic drivers in the province and containing so many components of science, math, social studies, English language arts, environmental studies, and courses under the Career and Technology Studies, this is a necessary next step. Building agriculture into curriculum is crucial for moving the industry forward in improving innovation, sustainability, and global food security while helping solve challenges, such as the demand for skilled and educated agricultural labour.

**All our educational
resources are available
online and can be ordered
as classroom resources at
learncanola.com**



RESOURCE ORDERS ARE ROLLING OUT

As teachers and students return to the classroom, our agricultural resources are flying off the shelf—and that includes the Chase Duffy graphic novel series, produced by Alberta Canola. This resource offers a fantastic way for educators to introduce agriculture and canola to K-6 classrooms. Through Chase Duffy, educators and students can explore farming while making connections across many subjects in their curriculum.

We've also stocked up on the new, "It All Begins with The Seed" activity book that offers K-3 activities in numeracy, literacy, science, and health with multiple points of connection to the Alberta Education: Program of Studies.

All our educational resources are available online and can be ordered as classroom resources at learncanola.com.

BROADCASTING CANOLA WITH FIELDS TO FORKS

This year, Alberta Canola has looked for new ways to connect with the public, and bring awareness to all things canola. This inspired Alberta Canola's provincial marketing campaign, designed to educate consumers with knowledge of canola.

The provincial campaign, Fields to Forks, was ran through Bell Media on CTV television and various radio channels (The Bear, CJAY, Virgin Radio) from August 21 to October 21. Audiences were able to connect with the story of canola and the people who grow it here in our province. Alberta Canola directors, Ian Chitwood and Cheryl Westman, were featured guests on CTV Morning Live.



BUILDING A BRAND FOR CANOLA

At Alberta Canola, we're excited to announce the launch of Hello Canola, a marketing campaign to make canola knowledge and use a near-universal experience for all Canadians. The objective of the campaign is to build a positive reputation for canola by moving Canadians from apathy to love for the crop.

While the National Canola Marketing Program—a joint effort between the Manitoba Canola Growers Association, SaskCanola, and Alberta Canola—has been working for many years to promote canola across Canada, they boosted their strategic efforts in the fall of 2022 by working with the guidance and expertise of a national marketing agency to bring this campaign to life. Through marketing and promotional resources, this brand is increasing awareness, national pride, and domestic demand for canola, its byproducts, and its end uses.

Check out the campaign at visit hellocanola.ca or find @HelloCanola on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), or [YouTube](#).

To learn more about how we are working to promote canola in the community, join us at one of our upcoming Grower Engagement Meetings. Register your attendance at albertacanola.com/GEM

Alberta Canola Producer Commission Bylaws

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission's new bylaws came into effect on **August 8, 2023**.

Our regulations and bylaws define Alberta Canola's authorization and governance, and include information about our mandate, responsibilities, operations, service charges, meetings, regional representation, and nominations and elections.

To learn more and read Alberta Canola's Regulation & Bylaws visit albertacanola.com/bylaws.

Putting the Emphasis on ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



By Kathryn Knodel
RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Alberta Canola is committed to improvements in how we steward and care for the environment through agriculture. We're currently funding two ongoing projects with this specific focus on the benefit of environmental stewardship.

One of these projects, a 5-year research initiative with the Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab (AALL) led by Alberta Beef Producers, is focused on integrating beef, forage, and cropping systems to improve soil carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to funding by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – Living Labs Program, as well as other partner funders, Alberta Canola has committed to contributing \$50,000 to this project's total cost of \$8.5 million.

Beginning in May 2022 with a goal of completion in May 2027, this project is a living lab, a type of research initiative in which farmer input and expertise is heavily incorporated and valued. Living labs are used to identify, adapt, and implement on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs)—management systems or technologies with specific environmental benefits.

The project focuses on starting or expanding these beneficial practices, including crop rotations, fall seeded crops, cover crops, 4R nutrient application, variable rate fertilizer, and nitrification inhibitors. Alberta

Canola director, Wayne Schneider, is currently involved in a nitrification inhibitor study through the AALL and is one of over 50 other producers and growers involved in this research initiative.

Another project that focuses on environmental stewardship is the Alberta Water Monitoring and Wetland Stewardship project, funded by Alberta's crop commissions, RDAR, Syngenta, Bayer Crop-Science, and BASF. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) collaborated on establishing the methodology for the project. The 3-year project will be completed in spring of 2024, by an independent third-party environmental consultant. This project evaluates the effectiveness of stewardship near riparian zones and wetlands at 20 different sites throughout Southern Alberta. Alberta Canola has contributed \$150,000 to this program's total cost of over \$1.65 million.

Both the Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab research initiative and the Alberta Water Monitoring and Wetland Stewardship project demonstrate Alberta Canola's commitment to environmental stewardship. To learn more about these and other research projects join us at one of our upcoming Grower Engagement Meetings. Register your attendance at albertacanola.com/GEM



2ND ANNUAL

ALBERTA CANOLA CONFERENCE

January 24-25 | Pomeroy Hotel Grande Prairie

Join fellow canola farmers for this two-day event focused on canola markets, policy, management, and research.

Register
Today!

There is no charge
to attend.



albertacanola.com/ACC

DAY ONE

Alberta Canola's 34th Annual General Meeting and your opportunity to engage with great guest speakers, including:



Jennifer Dyck
NATIONAL CANOLA
MARKETING PROGRAM



Heather Watson
FARM MANAGEMENT CANADA



Janelle Whitley
CANADIAN CANOLA
GROWERS ASSOCIATION



Brittany Wood
CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA

DAY TWO

Learn what these researchers are currently working on and provide direct input into Alberta Canola's future research priorities.



Dr. Shelley Hoover
UNIVERSITY OF
LETHBRIDGE



Clint Jurke
CANOLA COUNCIL OF
CANADA



Jennifer Otani
AAFC BEAVERLODGE
RESEARCH FARM



Dr. Stephen Strelkov
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Dr. Kelly Turkington
AAFC LACOMBE
RESEARCH CENTRE

For information and Conference registration, visit: albertacanola.com/ACC

Register now to vote at the Annual General Meeting in-person or virtually at albertacanola.com/vote
The AGM is the only portion of the conference that will be accessible virtually.

Canola 4R Advantage OFFERS MORE FUNDING for farmers

Canola 4R Advantage, funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC's) On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), offers financial support to growers as they initiate or advance 4R Nutrient Stewardship on their farms. 4R Nutrient Stewardship helps maximize the crop's access to nutrients and minimize any losses – helping fertilizer dollars go further.

Through Canola 4R Advantage, canola growers can seek assistance for 4R best management practices (BMPs) including soil testing, field zone mapping and enhanced efficiency fertilizers. Year two of the program will cover expenses invoiced and paid by growers between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

In year two, growers can access several opportunities to receive

more funding when expanding the use of 4R BMPs:

- **More dollars per BMP:** Growers can now seek up to \$20,000 in assistance for each BMP, versus \$6,000 in year one.
- **More BMPs per farm:** Each farm can seek support for all BMPs covered by the program, versus a maximum of two BMPs in year one.
- **Added eligibility for 4R plan development:** The program can reimburse up to 85 per cent of the consulting fees paid for a 4R designated agronomist to develop a growers' 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plan, to a maximum of \$5,000.

- **Funding continued adoption of new practices:** Growers can seek funding to continue BMPs that were started since February 7, 2022.

Other program requirements established by AAFC remain in place, including the 85 per cent reimbursement cap for eligible expenses and a maximum \$75,000 limit in total funding received by a farm business across all OFCAF programs over the two-year OFCAF program lifetime.

The deadline to submit applications for year two is November 30, 2023. Applications are currently open through a new digital portion at canolacouncil.org/4r-advantage.

CCC has short videos on year two program enhancements and how to apply. Visit canolacouncil.org/4r-advantage to find the videos, FAQs, contact information and more.



Funding for Canola 4R Advantage is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund.

Safeguarding Alberta's Agricultural Future: THE CHALLENGE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION



By Bijon Brown | SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Land is one of the most critical inputs for producing any crop, including canola—and changing land use patterns could impact this valuable resource. The loss of prime agricultural land to other land uses can lead to long-term impacts on food supply and the Albertan economy.

LAND IS SHIFTING OUT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

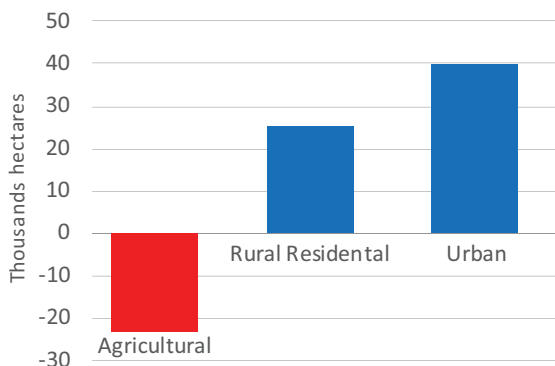
Many Western Canadian cities have evolved from agricultural economies, and therefore best quality farmland is usually found in and around major cities. This can result in reduced access to quality farmland as city populations expand. Based on the Land Suitability Rating System developed by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, almost 52 thousand hectares

of the top three classes of land were taken out of agricultural production between 2011 to 2020. Most of this loss was from a 40-thousand-hectare expansion in urban infrastructure and 25-thousand-hectare expansion in rural residential development (see Chart 1). While this reduction was partially offset by bringing roughly 32 thousand hectares of lower quality land into production, the total agricultural land in production was still reduced and downgraded to lower quality soil.

LESS LAND, LESS PRODUCTION, LESS FOOD

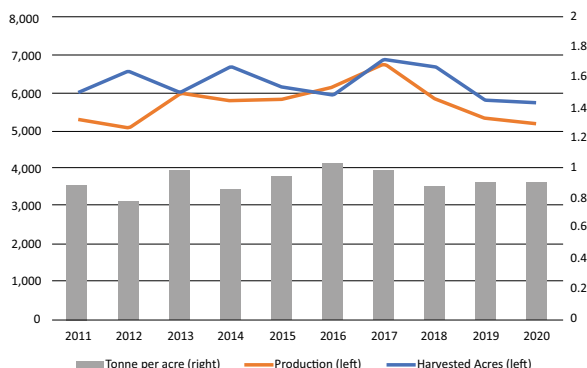
As agricultural land shifts to less suitable soils, this could have a major impact on crop yields and food availability as land productivity drops. Between 2011 to 2020, Alberta canola production stagnated around

Chart 1: Net Change in Area by Land Use Class 2011-2020



Source: Government of Alberta, Annual Report 2021 Land Use Changes in Alberta

Chart 2: Alberta Canola Production, Harvested Acres and Yield



Source: Government of Alberta, Agricultural Fact Sheet 2012-2021

5.7 million metric tonnes and there has been a noticeable decline in production since the 2017 peak of 6.8 million metric tonnes (see Chart 2 on page 13). While advances in technology have helped to lift production, the loss of prime agricultural land has dampened production and stagnated yields over this period.

SOLAR PUTS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABILITY

The strain on crop production from weather variability is compounded by government regulations and land demands from urban and industry growth. Much of this recent industry growth in land demand comes from new renewable energy projects. While farming can continue around oil and gas wells and wind turbines, once solar panels cover the land there is very limited opportunity for crop growth based on their current setup. That is why large initiatives could have such a negative impact on farmland by potentially removing hundreds of acres from production for the next 50 to 100 years.

Furthermore, without clear and consistent rules for reclamation of green energy projects and well-designed bonds, landowners will likely be left with

the burden to clean up these projects at their end of life and could further put at risk the chance of reclamation.

A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY IS NEEDED TO SECURE FARMLAND AVAILABILITY

Economics involve allocating scarce resources to meet various needs, and land is a vital yet limited resource facing growing competition. The optimal choice is to allocate land to its highest value use. While to many, agriculture might not seem to be the top value in the short run, as land is diverted away from agriculture for extended periods and in some cases permanently, constrained food supply and increased demand through population growth will ultimately expose the value and importance of agricultural land. Furthermore, choosing renewable energy and urban development before agriculture could damage soil and worsen food supply problems for future generations.

These complex land use challenges require a comprehensive strategy that not only looks at the value of competing land uses today, but also the direct and indirect impacts of various land uses over time. Land use frameworks and regional plans do this by



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January 9 & 10, 2024

↑

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prioritizing and allocating land to various competing demands. While four (Peace Region (Lower and Upper), Red Deer Region and the Upper Athabasca Region) out of seven regions covering Alberta have not started the planning process, the South Saskatchewan Region (in which agriculture is most dominant) indicate the importance of agriculture and resolve to limit farmland conversion and fragmentation.

However, stronger messaging is needed to preserve the best land in Alberta for future generations to grow crops. Even incremental changes over time can lead to structural changes that affect the economy including crop production and distribution. That is why new industrial projects should also undergo an agricultural impact assessment prior to approval, weighing the impact of the cumulative loss of land to agriculture.

INNOVATION IS NEEDED TO DRIVE COEXISTENCE

The goal is to preserve agricultural cropland while acknowledging the importance of various industries and urban development—and further research is imperative. Some European vegetable farms have

already integrated solar panels above shade-tolerant crops and wide-spaced vertical panels that can accommodate tractors.

Similarly, the Prairie region could explore a sustainable coexistence of agriculture and solar power by, for example, modernizing the traditional summer fallow practice. Instead of leaving land barren, mobile solar units could cover the uncultivated field and rotate seasonally. With a bit of Albertan ingenuity, an innovation like this would diversify farmers' operations, generating both power and food.

WITH PLANNING AND INNOVATION, THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Sustainable land use and coexistence of various industries are essential for Canada's future, but all of it takes effective planning. With its natural resources, Alberta has the potential to lead in both food and renewable energy production, enhancing the quality of life for all rural and urban populations.

Attend a Grower Engagement Meeting this fall to discuss this policy topic and others. Register your attendance at albertacanola.com/GEM

The advertisement features a dark green background with a subtle pattern of white lines. On the left, a yellow square contains the text 'THE INTERSECTION' in white, with 'OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS' in white text below it. Below this, a blue box says 'Join Us January 29-31, 2024 The Westin - Airport Calgary, Alberta'. To the right, a blue box says 'CrossRoads Crop Conference is proud to take FarmTech's place as the premier agriculture event of the winter!'. In the center-right, the text 'EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW!' is written in yellow, followed by 'Register now and save \$50 on your full access pass.' in white. Below this is the CrossRoads logo, a stylized 'C' made of two parallel lines, and the text 'CROSSROADS ALBERTA'S CROP CONFERENCE' in white. At the bottom, a blue banner says 'Visit crossroadscropconference.ca to learn more.'.

THE INTERSECTION
OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS

Join Us
January 29-31, 2024
The Westin - Airport
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CrossRoads Crop Conference is proud to take FarmTech's place as the premier agriculture event of the winter!

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BOOST YOUR GRAIN MARKETING PLAN WITH A CASH ADVANCE FROM CCGA



AN ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM CASH ADVANCE FROM CCGA GIVES YOU TIME TO FOCUS ON MARKETING YOUR HARVEST:

1

Have more time to execute your marketing plan confidently. Cover expenses and wait to market until the time and price is best for you, or get the cash flow you need while you wait for your grain contract delivery date.

2

Save on interest costs compared to other forms of working capital financing. Borrow up to \$350,000 interest-free under the 2023/24 program and the rest at CCGA's interest rate of prime less 0.75%.

3

Put it to work in whatever way works best on your farm. Created for farmers, use this financial tool to pre-pay crop inputs for next season, complete maintenance and upgrades, cover fall operating costs, and more.

WHY TAKE A CASH ADVANCE FROM CCGA?

With nearly 40 years of experience Helping Farmers Succeed, Canadian Canola Growers Association strives to make learning about and applying for an APP cash advance as convenient and easy as possible. Applications are accepted year-round.

Borrow up to \$1 million on over 50 conventional and organic commodities, including all major field crops, honey, and large and small livestock. Discover more about cash advance at ccga.ca.

Call our experienced staff at **1-866-745-2256**. Returning customers can **apply online**.



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.



CCC Canola ADVOCACY UPDATE

In the latter part of summer, the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) prepared its pre-budget submission for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. This is part of a months-long process by the Committee to solicit ideas for the federal budget, set to be released in spring 2024.

CCC focused its submission on five key recommendations in support of the industry's longer-term growth and competitiveness:

1. Make the Prairies extended interswitching pilot permanent and increase the radius to 500km.

Budget 2023 included an important pilot for the Prairies that will allow shippers to use extended interswitching up to 160km. Given that many parts of the Prairies are exclusively serviced by one of the two major Class 1 railways, shippers are subject to their dominant market positions. Extended interswitching enables competition within the Class 1 railway system and was a key recommendation of the National Supply Chain Task Force. While the pilot is a positive first step, the government should make the pilot permanent and increase the radius to 500km to ensure that all major growing regions have access to this important tool.

2. Permanently increase the base funding for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

In August 2021, the government announced an investment to support the work of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) at Health Canada with a focus on human and environmental health and safety oversight and protection, data and transparency of decision making. However, this funding, inclusive of funding to



increase data collection for water monitoring, is set to sunset in 2024. Budget 2024 should provide a permanent increase to the base funding of PMRA, providing the agency with much needed resources required to support a robust and world-class pesticide regulatory system.

3. Increase funding to support trade enforcement activities.

The continued success of Canada's canola industry is, in no small part, contingent on market access and market development opportunities secured through trade negotiations and resulting agreements, together with their ongoing implementation plans to remove both tariff and non-tariff barriers. Budget 2024 should include investments to bolster the trade enforcement capacity of Global Affairs Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ensure that Canadian exporters are fully benefiting from Canada's free trade agreements.

4. Ensure a competitive investment environment for clean fuel production in Canada.

Budget 2023 committed to working with industry to explore opportunities to support the growth of biofuels in Canada. For the canola industry, this is vital as we look to significantly increase crush capacity as a result of major investments by processors in both new and existing facilities. This expansion of crush capacity is predicated, in part, on the biofuel opportunity for Canadian canola, both domestically and in the U.S. In order to compete, it is imperative that Canada provide appropriate incentives for investments in domestic clean fuel production facilities, as the United States has done through the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act.

5. Complete the regulatory pathway for plant breeding innovation.

Plant breeding innovations generally and gene-editing specifically are important drivers of innovation in the development of new plant varieties that can, among other things, reduce the use of water, increase heat and drought tolerance, and reduce the amount of land required to produce the same amount of food. With two of the three areas of guidance now published, the final piece remains with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and guidance on pre-market assessment for feed. The government should move forward quickly with its consultation and publication of guidance in order to finalize the regulatory pathway for next generation plant breeding innovations to ensure that Canada is well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity to attract new investments and innovation that will benefit the Canadian canola industry.

—Troy Sherman, Director of Government Relations for the Canola Council of Canada

Do you know...

- ✓ **YOUR GRADE?**
- ✓ **YOUR COLOURS?**
- ✓ **WHAT'S IN YOUR GRAIN CONTRACT?**

Answer yes, yes, and yes with valuable info and tips from Canadian Canola Growers Association's latest resources:

KNOW YOUR GRADE ✓

to boost your bottom line

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