



FALL 2024

NEWS & EVENTS

Attend an upcoming Grower Engagement Meeting

Join us for a day of conversations on what Alberta Canola is doing to support the long-term success of canola farmers through research, advocacy, and consumer education.

ATTENDANCE IS FREE AND LUNCH IS PROVIDED!

Meet with your regional directors. Engage in presentations from staff members and guest speakers from CCC and CCGA.

albertacanola.com/events

Register Now!



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



Bijon Brown | SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

A Province-Wide Rethink on Water Use: The need for careful water management has never been more pressing. The solution isn't just about finding more water.

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 9**



Brittany Visscher | RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Coordinating Research with Grower Needs: Engaging with canola growers to better identify the research priorities which help guide the direction of grower-funded research investments.

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 11**



Louise Labonte | PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

A Better Direction for Ag Education: Bridging the gap between agriculture and future generations of consumers and decision makers.

[LEARN MORE ON](#) **PAGE 15**



November 21 - 📍 Lethbridge



8
Jeff Frost
Olds, Alberta
403-507-9202



9
Christine McKee
Stirling, AB
403-635-7701



12
Alan Hampton
Rowley, AB
403-823-0777

November 26 - 📍 Lacombe



5
Justin Nanninga
Neerlandia, AB
780-307-4343



6
Wayne Schneider
Nisku, AB
780-975-7605



7
Paula Law
Lacombe, AB
403-350-8215

November 28 - 📍 Camrose



4
Jeannette Andrashewski
Two Hills, AB
780-385-5633



10
Cheryl Westman
Vermilion, AB
780-581-3856



11
Roger Chevraux
Killam, AB
780-385-6358

December 11 - 📍 Grande Prairie



1
Christi Friesen
Brownvale, AB
780-618-9710



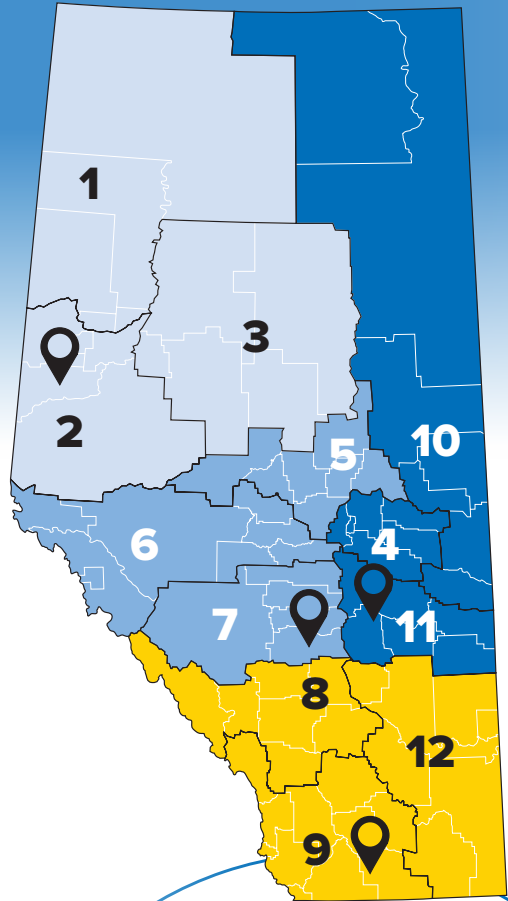
2
Andre Harpe
Valhalla Centre, AB
780-814-0964



3
Charles Simoneau
Guy, AB
780-837-6900

Can't join us in person?

December 18
Online Broadcast
Hosted by Dianne Finstad



REGISTER EARLY

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albertacanola.com/events



3rd Annual

Alberta Canola Conference

Red Deer Resort & Casino | January 22 & 23, 2025

Engage. Empower. Grow Together.

Join fellow canola farmers for discussions and presentations from leading experts on canola industry markets, trade, policy & advocacy, and farm business management.

The annual 2-day event also features:



Your opportunity to discuss and vote on the issues that impact the success of canola farming in Alberta. Voting registration for the AGM is accessed through the conference registration at albertacanola.com/events



Learn what researchers are working on and provide direct input to help shape Alberta Canola's future research priorities.

For information, event registration and voter registration at the AGM, visit albertacanola.com/events

The first morning of the conference, including the AGM, is the only portion of the conference that will be accessible virtually.



Register Now!

Greetings from Christi Friesen, Region 1 Director



Dear fellow canola farmer,

I'm Christi Friesen and I farm near Brownvale. I am honoured to represent you and all canola growers in Alberta Canola's region 1.

In this newsletter, you'll find key updates on our ongoing efforts to support your long-term success. These include investments in research and ensuring canola farmers have a voice at the table when government policies or regulations affecting our industry are introduced or changed. We are also working to educate the public about the vital role of agriculture and the many benefits of canola oil.

Additionally, you will find a letter from our chair, Roger Chevraux, addressing the financial challenges Alberta Canola is currently facing and the proposed path forward. As your regional director, I support the proposed service charge increase on each tonne of canola sold. However, I understand that as a farmer you may have questions or concerns about this.

I encourage you to attend one of our upcoming Grower Engagement Meetings being held across Alberta. These meetings offer a great opportunity to learn more about Alberta Canola's work on behalf of all canola growers and to discuss the service charge proposal ahead of the Annual General Meeting in January. At each meeting, three Alberta Canola directors and a full complement of staff will be available to answer questions. There is also a shorter online meeting available for those unable to attend in person. **I will be at the Grower Engagement Meeting in Grande Prairie on December 11. I hope to see you there.**

Please feel free to contact me or the Alberta Canola office if you have any questions.

Christi Friesen
christi@albertacanola.com
780-618-9710



To my fellow Alberta Canola growers:



As we look toward the upcoming Alberta Canola Annual General Meeting this January, I want to personally address an important decision we're asking you to consider. **We are asking you, the growers, to support a modest but necessary increase in the refundable canola service charge from \$1.00/tonne to \$1.75/tonne.**

We don't make this ask lightly; the decision was made after very thorough analysis, including consultation with financial experts, forecasting five-year financial and production outlooks, and projecting various operating scenarios. Your Alberta Canola board — myself included — believes this increase is essential for Alberta Canola to continue our efforts to benefit all Albertan canola farmers.

Alberta Canola has not raised its service charge since 2003. Over the past 20 years, every cost in our industry has surged, while public funds for research have plummeted and the pressure on the industry — from regulatory burden to consumer demands to sustainability expectations — has skyrocketed. Simultaneously, Alberta's canola production has declined by nearly 25% from a high of 7 million tonnes in 2017. These factors have resulted in Alberta Canola operating in deficit for five of the last six years.

As fellow farmers, we understand the financial pressures you face. **Our ask is not just about keeping Alberta Canola running—it's about ensuring the continued growth and success of Alberta's canola industry.**

Increasing the service charge would allow Alberta Canola to rebalance our budget and restore financial reserves that would give the organization long-term sustainability. It would also enable us to strategically enhance initiatives that support grower success.

Farmers need sharp financial pencils to be successful on their own farms, and they should expect the same from their commissions. Let me be very clear: long before even considering asking for additional funds, we at Alberta Canola conducted a comprehensive review of our operations, tightening our operating

budget in every way possible. Then we looked at our mandate and the services our growers expect from us to determine if we could reduce deliverables while still maintaining the programs and efforts you expect from Alberta Canola.

The reality is that if Alberta Canola were to reduce its budget by 20%, it would severely compromise our ability to deliver what you've told us you need. Yet even a cut of that size — which would demand eliminating

one or more of our key operational pillars — would not put the organization back onto firm financial footing.

“Increasing the service charge would allow Alberta Canola to rebalance our budget and restore financial reserves that would give the organization long-term sustainability. It would also enable us to strategically enhance initiatives that support grower success.”

This ask won't come as a surprise for many. Over the last couple years, we've reached out regularly to our growers to talk about our efforts, celebrate our wins, and collect perspectives on a path forward. We have spoken openly about our financial challenges at all our regional Grower Engagement Meetings (GEMs) throughout 2023, at our 2024 AGM, and in various articles in our newsletters and websites. I'm proud and pleased to say the feedback we've received to date on the concept of a service charge increase has been resoundingly positive. **Repeatedly, we've heard "Keep doing what you're doing. Farmers need someone working on these tough issues on our behalf," and "We support you. What do you need to regain financial stability?"**

“Over the last couple years, we've reached out regularly to our growers to talk about our efforts, celebrate our wins, and collect perspectives on a path forward.”

In early 2024, we contracted a certified management consultant to conduct an independent review of our financial position and options moving forward. They confirmed that Alberta Canola will not be operational going forward without a service charge increase. They presented financial projections for service charge increase options that would take the charge up to a total of either \$1.50 or \$2.00/tonne.

At a \$0.50/tonne increase (to a total charge of \$1.50/tonne), the financial projections were poor. Modelling cashflow out five years shows we would not be able to balance the budget or build the contingency fund we need to help weather near-term uncertainty.

As a nonprofit, it is important that grower dollars work hard on today's challenges. A doubling of the current service charge to \$2.00/tonne would build up our resiliency more quickly, but we are uncomfortable asking for more than we feel we need.

After careful analysis, the Alberta Canola Board was unanimous in supporting a \$0.75/tonne increase, which would bring the total service charge to \$1.75/tonne.

We believe this 'middle route' is a sustainable and fiscally responsible decision that continues to allow us to meet grower needs.

While we appreciate the support of those who have provided feedback so far, our goal is to hear from as many canola growers from across Alberta as possible. I encourage you to join us at one of our upcoming Grower Engagement Meetings to learn more. And I encourage all growers to attend and vote at our Annual General Meeting on January 22, 2025, either in person in Red Deer or by joining online.


The official resolution to be presented at the AGM will be published on our website in early January. All eligible producers in attendance at the AGM, both in person and online, will have an opportunity to vote on this resolution.

I am the chair of your Alberta Canola board and I am farmer. As a canola grower, I see the proposed increase as a good investment to help ensure the long-term success of all canola farmers in Alberta. I hope you agree.

With appreciation,

Roger Chevrax,
Alberta Canola Chair & Region 11 Director

Alberta Canola Advocacy Bulletin

Alberta Canola has prioritized advocacy and intensified activities to deepen relationships with the government and other elected officials. 

The highlights below showcase a few key focus areas and advocacy wins from the past year, which support the long-term success of canola farmers in Alberta.

1 CHINA'S ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION INTO CANADIAN CANOLA SEED

Alberta Canola continues to work with our national partners and the provincial and federal governments to ensure that rules-based international trade for canola seed remains open and predictable, safeguarding the market for Canadian canola seed. Your canola grower groups are actively defending farmers at the farmgate in response to China's retaliatory actions.

2 DECREASING THE BURDEN OF ON-FARM TRUCK TRANSPORTATION

Alberta Canola achieved a small win to reduce the ongoing frustrations relating to accessing and retaining Class 1 drivers and accessibility of training. The Minister of Transportation announced that as of April 1, 2024, members of farm families can

challenge a Class 1 drivers test without the costly MELT program requirements for operating a Class 1 vehicle for active farm use.

3 PROTECTING PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS FROM RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT

Alberta Canola values the preservation of prime agricultural land for the long-term sustainable production of canola. Advocacy efforts have pressed for ensuring rules are in place to protect landowners, including stringent end-of-life requirements for renewable projects and thorough agricultural impact assessments before any land-use changes on prime agricultural lands are considered. We were pleased when the government announced an "agriculture-first" approach to these crucial decisions.

4 REDUCING THE FILING BURDEN ON FARMERS FROM THE UNDER-USED HOUSING TAX (UHT)

Alberta Canola, amongst other farmer organizations, raised concerns about the unintended

consequences of the under-used housing tax for rural farming operations. The Canadian government has since removed the UHT reporting obligation for farmers, reducing the associated paperwork and administrative costs.

5 ENGAGING WITH DECISIONS MAKERS

Alberta Canola continues to prioritize engagement with policymakers through initiatives like the annual Alberta Canola Advocacy Day in November and the summer MLA Family Farm Tour. Alberta Canola was also well-represented at the inaugural Team Alberta Crops Lobby Day in March. These outreach efforts raise awareness of critical issues that affect canola growers, and Alberta Canola is dedicated to maintaining open and ongoing dialogue with the Government of Alberta and other elected representatives.

Find all the latest information at albertacanola.com/news.



Learn**Canola**
Apprendre le canola

Explore Canola Through the Adventures of Chase Duffy!

Find more resources
at learncanola.com



JANUARY 28 - 29, 2025
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL WEST EDMONTON

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2024

CrossRoadsCropConference.ca

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening night reception on January 27
- Keynote addresses from Michele Payn, Bill Wirtz & Drew Lerner
- Forward thinking sessions for today's farmer
- Valuable networking opportunities to foster fresh ideas & meaningful connections.



PRESENTED BY:



Alberta Grains





By Bijon Brown
SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Province-Wide Rethink on Water Use: Essential for Agriculture's Future

Water is the lifeblood of agriculture where farming is both a tradition and a key economic driver. The need for careful water management has never been more pressing. →

With changing weather patterns, growing populations, and increasing pressures on our natural resources, it's time for a province-wide rethink of how we use water. For farmers, this isn't just about environmental sustainability but economic sustainability.

THE CURRENT CHALLENGE


While weather patterns naturally vary with normal wet and dry cycles, the increased volatility of droughts and floods over the past 10 years has had severe consequences for our industry. **Longer periods of drought, damaging storms with heavy rainfall, wind, and hail, along with reduced snowpacks are making water and the growing seasons less predictable.** This directly impacts crop yields and the overall profitability of farms.

At the same time, competition for water is increasing. Urban expansion, industrial growth, and environmental conservation efforts are all vying for the same limited resource. As water becomes scarcer and the cost of securing it increases, this places an additional burden on farmers who are already operating on tight margins.

THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC APPROACH

The solution isn't just about finding more water; it's about using the water we have more wisely. This requires a strategic approach that goes beyond better irrigation, water storage, and soil health. It calls for rethinking how rainwater is captured and used on farms, as well as re-imagining the use of surface water in the 21st century.

Capturing excess rainfall and run off may need thoughtful consideration. There has been a change in rainfall patterns which have caused crops to undergo weather related stress and reduced yields. Although annual moisture may remain around the average, the timing and intensity are also very important for optimal crop growth. The most recent yield report from Alberta Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) indicates canola crop yields in irrigated areas are



more than 50 percent higher than those on dryland. If farmers in dryland areas are better able to regulate moisture available to crops, yields could improve. This has been shown with tile drainage systems instituted in Saskatchewan and Ontario. The need for adaptations like this will likely increase as rainfall patterns continue to change.

As glaciers melt and the snowpack from the mountains thin, there is a need to rethink water use from Alberta's major rivers. For instance, water net use (the difference between what is taken out and put back into the river) of cities in the province that are adjacent to or have rivers running through them is low relative to their total permitted use. This means we are losing water that could be used in our province to other jurisdictions, or it runs out to the oceans. What if, it is possible to use some of that lost water to irrigate crops, water animals, and do more value-added processing of our commodities? What if, instead of returning all city-treated water to rivers, some of it were diverted to reservoirs and aquifers for agricultural use? Could this lead to a noticeable increase in crop yields?

THE ROLE OF POLICY

Supportive policies are required to effect changes like those just previously described. This means

the Alberta government, with federal support, would need to build new infrastructure like reservoirs, incentivize efficient irrigation, and update water laws to address changing weather and growing demands. Alberta Canola is committed to working with the Alberta Water Council and Team Alberta Crops to ensure the views of canola growers across the province are brought to the table when the discussion of policies surrounding water management arise.

BMPS CAN HELP IN THE INTERIM

It will take time for policies to be developed and implemented but there are things growers can do in the interim to help to retain moisture on farm.

- Reinstating wetlands on-farm can help to slow rainfall runoff and help to recharge ground water which can increase the water table and soil moisture for crops in dry periods.
- The creation of shelter belts can reduce wind erosion of topsoil.
- Practices such as no-till, the use of stripper headers and leaving high stubble at harvest adds to organic matter on the ground that can capture snowfall in the winter and retain soil moisture for the growing season.

THE FUTURE OF FARMING IN ALBERTA

The future of farming in Alberta depends on our ability to adapt to a changing environment. By rethinking how we use water, we can protect our farms livelihoods and ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the province. This is not just an agricultural issue; it is a matter of provincial resilience and economic security.

“ This is not just an agricultural issue; it is a matter of provincial resilience and economic security. ”

Farmers are on the front lines of this challenge. Alberta Canola recognizes the impact water has on achieving greater yields and the increased risk that farmers take each year by investing in crop inputs and hoping for adequate rainfall at the right time. As such, Alberta Canola is working with the government to find sustainable solutions. **By working together and embracing novel approaches to water management, we can build a stronger, more resilient canola and agricultural sector—one that can thrive in the face of whatever challenges lie ahead.**

Coordinating Alberta Canola's Research with Grower Needs



By Brittany Visscher
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

After two successful Research Symposiums, held in conjunction with the Alberta Canola Conference, the research committee was able to update and clearly identify the research priorities of Alberta canola growers. 

Interestingly, there were overlapping priorities between northern and southern Alberta growers but there was an equal number of dissimilar priorities. These results highlight the diversity of growing conditions across Alberta, and the need for a robust research portfolio.

The Research Symposium provides an opportunity for growers to hear from researchers about the work being done and provide input on any gaps they see in their region. This event is an example of how Alberta Canola is continually looking for ways to connect and engage with growers, which is in alignment with our strategic plan. Additionally, the information collected helps guide Alberta Canola's Research Committee.

In April 2024, the Research Committee at Alberta Canola met to better define the research priorities and set funding targets for the 2024-2025 funding year. **These clearly defined research priorities and targets are hugely beneficial for the Research Committee when they are selecting research projects to invest grower dollars in.** They are also very beneficial for researchers to understand what problems farmers are facing and how they propose to find solutions.

For 2024-25, 77 letters of intent were submitted to Alberta Canola for funding, with a total ask of over \$23.5 million. The current annual budget at Alberta Canola for funding new research projects is \$1 million. The research priorities and targets help to

narrow in on the projects that growers are most interested in and what is financially feasible.

Alberta Canola also continues to maximize grower dollars invested into research. For 2023-24, the cumulative leverage ratio for Alberta Canola's research portfolio was 1: 7.36, meaning for every \$1 Alberta Canola growers pay, it is matched with \$7.36 of funding by industry partners.

The feedback received from the growers at the Research Symposiums greatly impact Alberta Canola's direction for research – and with the 3rd Research Symposium coming to Red Deer on January 23rd, 2025, we hope to connect with canola growers across central Alberta to hear about your production challenges and research needs!

2024-25 Research Targets

- 1** Improve yield stability under environmental extremes
- 3** Resistant weed management
- 6** Increasing canola oil content for value added processing

 - Biofuel feedstock
- 2** Disease management and disease interactions

 - Clubroot
 - Blackleg
 - Sclerotinia
 - Root rot
 - Verticillium stripe
- 4** Flea beetle management
- 7** Canola meal utilization

 - Animal feed
 - Human consumption
- 5** Optimize nutrient uptake efficiency

 - Nitrogen
- 8** Water management

 - Irrigation

PAST RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

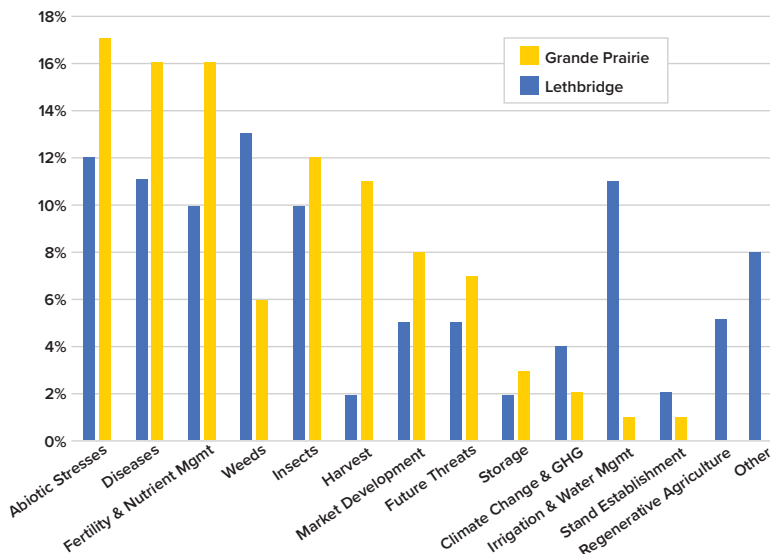
Establishing both the research priorities and targets are critical as they guide researchers on project ideas and submissions.

For example, 90% of the current annual intake of research proposals focus on the top 4 research priorities from each Research Symposium:

At the first Research Symposium held in Lethbridge, canola growers identified weeds (13%), abiotic stresses (12%), irrigation & water management (11%), and diseases (11%) as their top 4 priorities. Canola growers in attendance in Grande Prairie identified abiotic stresses (17%), diseases (16%), fertility & nutrient management (16%), and insects as theirs (12%).



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



Alberta Canola 5 Year Strategic Plan

2024/25 – 2028/29



Vision

Empowering the world's most successful canola growers.



Mission

To support the long-term success of canola growers in Alberta through research, extension, public engagement, and advocacy.

Strategic Principles:

- 1** | **Alberta Canola will be a grower centric organization** with a focus on engagement and meeting the needs of growers to ensure their long-term success.
- 2** | **Alberta Canola will ensure canola is recognized and valued** for being a safe and healthy product that is grown sustainably.
- 3** | **Alberta Canola will collaborate and build trusted partnerships** to market, educate, and share knowledge of agriculture through the efficient and effective delivery of programs to the public and stakeholders.
- 4** | **Alberta Canola's research and outreach programs will be innovative** and provide long-term value to growers.
- 5** | **Alberta Canola advocacy will ensure the voice of the growers are heard** as an integral component to policy development.
- 6** | **Alberta Canola governance will ensure the Board fulfills their fiduciary responsibility** and stewardship of the Commission with a high-level of engagement to deliver on the mandate and provide the oversight to protect the integrity of the Commission through compliance with Legislation, Regulation, Bylaws, and Policies.

Strategic Goals

2024/25 – 2028/29



Goal 1

Growers are engaged and realize the benefits and collective return on investment from Alberta Canola programs and services.



Goal 2

Alberta Canola is recognized as a trusted source for credible information on all aspects of canola in Alberta.



Goal 3

Operational effectiveness will be driven through professional development, innovation, open communication, collaboration, and use of current technology.



Goal 4

The Board governance model will be based on best practices to ensure the human and financial resources are available to achieve the Commission's mandate.

A Better Direction for Ag Education



By Louise Labonte
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND
PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

Alberta Canola has been evaluating how we approach promoting agriculture education in schools and assessing the reach and success of our various initiatives. We are working to improve strategies on how to elevate and increase student's access to agriculture education in Alberta. ⬇️

This includes continually looking to maximize grower dollars through supporting effective initiatives and programs, while building stronger partnerships with programs that develop practical resources and activities to ensure the greatest impact with teachers and students across the province.

We want agriculture in every classroom! And we recognize the importance of bridging the ever-growing gap between the farm and our province's future consumers and decision makers. This is why we have steered our focus towards working on an enhanced partnership with Ag for Life.

Students having a connection to the farm and knowing where food comes from is vital to the agriculture industry. Alberta Canola is leading a charge to connect other commissions and industry members in increasing their support of organizations like Ag for Life that can successfully connect to all aspects of education. Curriculum, project-based learning, summative and formative assessments, Universal Design for Learning - all terms and ideas needing to be understood, addressed, and focused on to help connect with the end user – the teacher.

Ag For Life is an organization focused on education and providing what teachers need to deliver, which is an inclusive story of agriculture to their students.

Last year, Ag for Life's CAP Program (Classroom Agriculture Program), alone, visited 282 schools, reached 10,135 students, and presented to 436 classrooms. That is why Alberta Canola is focused on and excited to expand our support of this organization.

We will also continue to look for opportunities to attend events like Innisfail Aggie Days and Brooks Outstanding in the Field, so we connect to rural communities across Alberta.

Alberta Canola continues to shed light on the need for agricultural education through conversations with the Ministries of Education and Agriculture and Irrigation. Our goal is to initiate a framework for improving agriculture-focused curriculum into the Alberta Program of Studies.

Agriculture is one of the province's largest economic drivers and contains many components of science, math, social studies, English language arts, environmental studies, and courses under the Career and Technology Studies. **Building the bridge between agriculture and future generations enables students to recognize the opportunities in demand for a skilled agriculturally educated work force** and develops a generation that is invested in promoting and supporting growers, innovation, sustainability, and global food security.

Leadership Training Opportunities for Alberta's Canola Growers

THE WALTER PASZKOWSKI FARM LEADERSHIP AWARD

Alberta Canola announced the Walter Paszkowski Farm Leadership Award at the Alberta Canola Conference last January.

This newly established award aims to annually recognize and reward a deserving canola grower in Alberta with a \$5,000 bursary towards enrollment in the National Farm Leadership Program which is powered by LeaderShift Inc. and supported by Farm Management Canada. This program aims to empower farmers through leadership development designed for hectic farm life and the desire to learn and perform in real time.

For more information on the program and how to apply visit albertacanola.com/leadership



CANOLA LEADERS – LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ALBERTA

Canola Leaders is an invitation-only event for 20 young farmers (or farmers that are young in their leadership journey) from across Alberta each year in March. It is also open to a limited number of participants from the industry including those planning to return to the farm.

This Alberta Canola event is designed to enhance the leadership skills of the participants for the benefit of their farming operations and the rural communities in which they live and farm.

The next Canola Leaders event will be held March 18 & 19, 2025 in Edmonton, Alberta.

For more information on the program and how to apply visit albertacanola.com/leadership



Canola Yields in 2024

From the Canola Council of Canada Agronomy Team



Every year we aim to grow a productive, profitable canola crop as growers and agronomists. And every year, something happens to challenge our ability to meet these target yields. And every year it is different. The year 2024 is no exception in Alberta. 📉

The factors that reduce our yield, which we often call the “yield robbers”, fall into the weather, pests and agronomy categories generally. As growers and agronomists, it is our job to deal with them as best as we can. What we saw robbing yields in Alberta this year, at the time of writing in early September, was hot and dry conditions through July and early August when the crop was flowering and filling pods (see Figure 1). For pests, we saw a significant increase in blackleg and verticillium stripe, as well as cutworms that caused higher amounts of damage in some areas. There are certainly more factors affecting our fields, but these were the most significant ones we observed in 2024.

Canola yields have faced challenges in the past seven years, after a period of increases from 2000 to 2016 (see Figure 2). But this is not a plateau of yield for canola only; it is seen in spring wheat, barley and field peas on the Prairies too. Some combination of higher temperatures and reduced rainfall in this recent period made it difficult for us to improve our yields despite improvements in cultivars and farm technology.

Focusing on good agronomy is the best path ahead for improving yields and profitability. We do know that a canola crop that is not deprived of inputs is one that will better withstand environmental stress and be more profitable than a crop with reduced inputs.

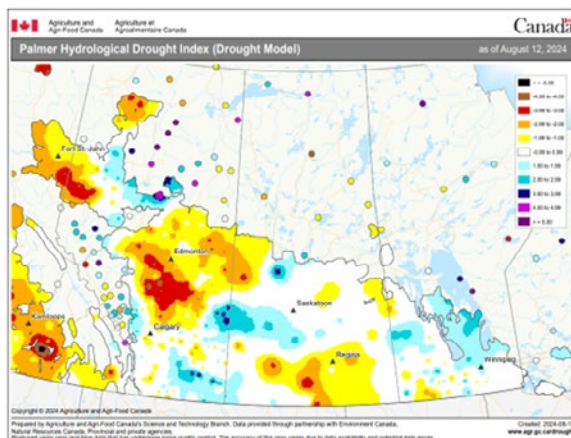
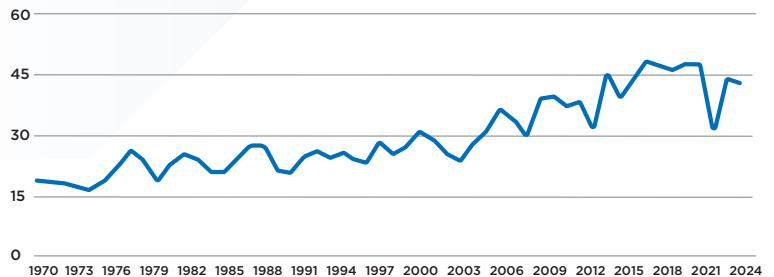


Figure 1. Drought index for the Canadian Prairies on August 12, 2024, sourced from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



Canola yield



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0359-01

Figure 2. Average canola yields from 1970 to 2023 in Canada.

Agronomists and growers need to prioritize inputs and practices that have a peer-reviewed track record of positive return on investment. And canola growers continuing to invest in high-quality research through Alberta Canola will provide important information to help increase yields and profitability, reduce production risk and enhance sustainability.

ONLINE

January 14 & 15, 2025

Timely agronomic information
for farmers & agronomists

////////////////////

\$40 REGISTER NOW
agronomyupdate.ca

AGRONOMY UPDATE

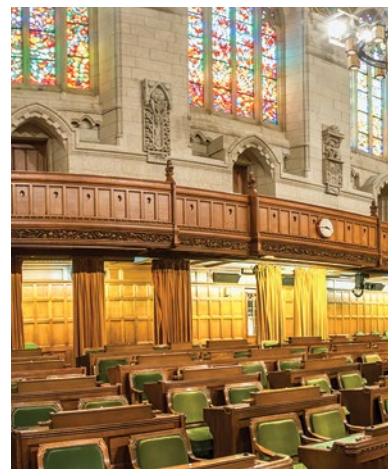
HOSTED BY:

CCC – Canola Advocacy Update



By Troy Sherman

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY
RELATIONS FOR THE CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA



In August, the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) submitted its recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance outlining some considerations and priorities for Budget 2025. ⬇️

This exercise is done annually to provide parliamentarians with an array of policy proposals and budgetary measures for consideration ahead of their report to the Minister of Finance.

For Budget 2025, CCC made four recommendations in support of the canola value chain and the industry's long-term prosperity and competitiveness.

1 **Permanently increase the base funding for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency for non-Transformation Agenda core activities.**

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is a leading scientific and regulatory agency that regulates access to many crop protection related innovations for farmers.

Since 2021, the PMRA has been pursuing a Transformation Agenda which has re-directed resources away from core functions of the agency. Budget 2024 included \$39 million over two years to continue the Transformation Agenda. The PMRA Transformation Agenda should sunset, and Budget 2025 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 that enables timely, evidence- and science-based decision-making regarding tools and technologies that are critical to Canadian canola farmers and the industry's competitiveness in global markets. This increase in base funding should be allocated exclusively to PMRA's core activities.

2 **Provide dedicated and ongoing funding for the Team Canada U.S. Engagement Strategy in support of the bilateral and continental trade relationship.**

The U.S. is the largest market for Canadian canola, totalling approximately \$8.6 billion in 2023. With the forthcoming Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review set for 2026, deeper and more proactive engagement with the U.S. has never been more important, particularly in light of a changing U.S. administration following the November 2024 election. Budget 2025 should commit specific and discrete dollars to the Team Canada U.S. Engagement Strategy to ensure that the required resources are in place to maintain a high degree of engagement across the U.S.



Funding from Budget 2025 should also be provided for Government of Canada support of key industry activities and initiatives that advance our bilateral and continental trade agenda.

3 Lengthen the extended interswitching pilot by an additional 30-months.

As part of Budget 2023, the government established an important pilot for the Prairies that allows shippers to use extended interswitching up to 160km. Given that parts of the Prairies are exclusively serviced by one of the two major Class 1 railways (CN and CPKC), shippers are beholden to their service offering with no competitive offerings available to them. **Extended interswitching enables competition within the Class 1 railway system benefiting farmers and shippers looking to get Canadian canola to market.**

That said, the current pilot poses significant challenges for Canadian shippers. Chief among these challenges is the 18-month timeline of the pilot. Grain contracts are often negotiated 12-months in advance with the Class 1 railways which leaves only six months for grain shippers to potentially use the pilot. This is insufficient and will not provide Transport Canada with the data it needs to make a determination on the effectiveness of the pilot. As such, the pilot should be extended by an additional 30 months to provide shippers with a longer timeframe to use this important policy tool.

4 Prohibit the practice of contracting out in grain contracts.

As part of the current negotiating dynamics between the Class 1 railways (CN and CPKC) and shippers, both of the major railways have included contracting

out as part of grain contracts with shippers. Contracting out is a practice used by the Class 1 railways to preclude shippers from using certain remedies under the Canada Transportation Act (CTA). The National Supply Chain Task Force recommended to the government that it should prohibit parties from contracting out provisions included within the CTA. The power imbalance between the Class 1 railways and shippers allows the railways to include these provisions in grain contracts which further benefits the railways at the expense of the shippers. Budget 2025 should commit to banning contracting out and introduce legislation to amend the CTA to enable this prohibition. Such a change will benefit farmers and shippers by ensuring a more level playing field with the railways.

Fall Financing from CCGA



Every year, thousands of Canadian farmers meet their fall cash flow needs through an Advance Payments Program cash advance from Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA). A cash advance provides farmers with access to low-interest cash flow through their unsold crop.



“Farmers can put an advance to work in whatever way makes the most sense for their operation, whether that’s for inputs, livestock feed, repairs and maintenance, wages, and more,” says Dave Gallant, Vice-President, Finance & APP Operations at CCGA.

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CCGA strives to make cash advances accessible and convenient for farms of all sizes. We offer:

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