

Minutes of the CSGA 2008 Annual Meeting

Québec City, Québec

July 17 & 18, 2008

The meeting opened at 8:00 a.m. July 17 at the Hilton Québec City, Québec. The president, Ed Lefsrud, welcomed everyone to the joint annual meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA).

Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA):

E. Lefsrud introduced Chief Executive Officer of AOSCA, Chet Boruff. C. Boruff welcomed everyone to Québec City and spoke about the similarities and differences between AOSCA and CSGA. This is an opportunity to share ideas and learn from one another.

E. Lefsrud requested a moment of silence to remember those members who have passed away in the past year.

Canadian Seed Institute Report:

E. Lefsrud introduced Executive Director, Jim McCullagh, of the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI). CSI activities include National Forum on Seed (NFS) related activities, the lab accreditation program and the identity preservation program. J. McCullagh was pleased to report that CSI is celebrating 10 years of operation this year. At times they were not sure if they were going to make it but the original investment paid off. J. McCullagh presented a large poster of the final cheque to CSGA representing repayment of the CSGA loan extended to CSI when it was first incorporated.

Canadian Seed Analysts Association of Canada:

E. Lefsrud introduced Cathy Breadner of the Canadian Seed Analysts Association of Canada (CSAAC). C. Breadner reported that CSAAC had just had their annual meeting and a continuing education workshop in London, Ontario. The meetings provided an opportunity for members to learn changes within the seed industry as they apply to the work of a seed analyst.

CSAAC has started translation to French of core CSAAC documents. The By-laws, continuing education protocol and membership application documents have been translated and posted on the CSAAC website. The translation of documents will continue and a new design of the CSAAC website is planned over the next year. The next CSAAC annual meeting and workshop will be held in Winnipeg July 8 – 10, 2009 to be held concurrently with the CSGA meeting.

Resolutions:

The Resolutions Committee announced that resolutions need to be brought forward to the committee by Friday at 9:00 am.

President's Report:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 12 and 13, 2007.

Motion: That the minutes of the July 12 and 13, 2007 meeting be approved as circulated and posted to the CSGA website. Moved by B. Reisner and seconded by Dr. B. Harvey.

CARRIED

Financial Report:

D. Adolphe presented the auditors' report and the financial statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2008.

Motion: That the financial statements be accepted. Moved by Donna Edwards and seconded by Lorne Fell.

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditor:

Motion: That KPMG be appointed auditors of the Association for the ensuing year, at the remuneration to be set by the Board of Directors. Moved by Larry Kitz and seconded by Gordon Hill.

CARRIED

D. Adolphe presented a proposal to restructure the fees, eliminating the variety fee of \$15.00 per variety and increasing the acreage fee by 16 cents per acre with an additional 2 cents per acre for hybrid seed acres. The increase in acreage fees would compensate for the loss of the variety fees, therefore leaving CSGA revenue neutral.

Motion: to eliminate the variety fee of \$15.00 per variety and increase the acreage fee by 16 cents per acre with an additional 2 cents per acre for hybrid seed acres. Moved by David Mol and seconded by Guy Crepeau.

CARRIED

Executive Directors Report:

D. Adolphe reported on the disposition of the 2007 resolutions, a strategic plan developed at the November 2007 Board of Directors meeting, and CSGA affiliated activities. D. Adolphe thanked the CSGA staff, CSGA Branch Secretaries, and the headquarters staff and field inspection staff at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Thanks and recognition was given to the Executive Committee and the National Board of Directors.

2007 Acreage Report:

D. Adolphe called on René Daoust, CSGA staff member to present the acreage report.

Welcome from the Minister's Office:

Danielle Bernier introduced M. Claude Bernard from the Minister's Office. M. Bernard welcomed everyone to Québec City and its 400th anniversary. M. Bernard spoke of the future of agriculture and the many issues and challenges the industry is facing. Right now there is a large increase in food demand and a huge interest in bio fuels. In conclusion he wished everyone a fun and productive meeting.

Speaker – Dr. Stephane Pouleur of AAC:

Dr. Pouleur outlined germination rates on treated and untreated seed and the contamination of seed. Besides water, the seed is the most important input for good germination rates. Dr. Pouleur provided test results of germination rates of contaminated seed done throughout Canada.

Speaker – Dale Adolphe, Executive Director CSGA:

D. Adolphe explained the operations of the CSGA and the background of the Association. CSGA represents almost 4,000 seed crop producers and is involved with other sections of the industry to provide final seed certification. No one entity is responsible; CSI, CSGA, CSTA, and CSAAC all play a role in the delivery of Canada's seed certification system provided by the Seeds Act under CFIA's jurisdiction.

Speaker – Chet Boruff, Chief Executive Officer, AOSCA:

C. Boruff educated the members on AOSCA and how CSGA and AOSCA complement and differ from one another.

AOSCA was established as the International Crop Improvement Association in 1919, formed by 13 States and Canada.

Today, AOSCA has 45 US agencies certifying a diverse mix of crops. Seed Certification in the United States is similar to Canada where the classes of seed – Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified is the same and seed growers make application to the Seed certifying agency in their location. The agency personnel inspect the fields according to AOSCA standards.

The world changes at a rapid pace and there are many things to keep an eye out for; new markets, items that are no longer relevant, and the fact that competition will increase. Objectives for AOSCA in 2008 and beyond are to expand into new markets and new crops.

Speaker – Laurent Pellerin, Agricultural Producer:

M. Pellerin started farming in 1972 as a hog producer and a few years later added beef to his operation. He grew cereals using registered certified seed to feed the hogs. He is President of the PQ Hog Association and was president of the Quebec Farmers Union (UPA) from 1993 – 2007. M. Pellerin is not worried about production and the planet running out of food – production is there even if the worlds' population doubles.

Speaker – Jimmy Jean, Economist, Royal Bank of Canada

J. Jean outlined how the US economy and the Canadian economy differ. In the US with the sub prime mortgages and the financial institutions now tightening credit it has made it more difficult to obtain credit and at a higher cost. Businesses have cut back and the US has experienced an economic slowdown. Household wealth in the US has taken a huge hit and consumer spending has decreased. The US economy has shed 438,000 jobs since January translating into a spiking unemployment rate and decelerating income gains. The result is that consumer's morale is at its lowest in over 15 years, but better days are coming for an economy that will likely escape a recession.

Canadians strength is the interior demand which is still supported by a vigorous job market. Canadian banks are stricter than the US so Canada is not exposed to sub prime mortgages, however, Canada can expect a normal cyclical slowdown in housing prices. Canadian consumers' indebtedness level is far below their US counterparts. Income growth in Canada

has kept credit quality relatively high. Business performance in Canada still has solid balance sheets, but Canada's weak link is trade where the amount of imports now exceeds the exports. The weakness in net exports will weigh on near-term growth. Central Canada's predominantly manufacturing industries has experienced a decrease in real GDP growth that has affected all of Canada.

Report from the Board of Directors:

The meeting continued Friday morning with Neil Shanks, 1st Vice President, presenting the report of the Board of Directors meeting held in Ottawa last November and most recently in Québec City.

Motion: That the report of the Board of Directors be accepted. Moved by Neil Shanks and seconded by Larry Kitz. CARRIED

Education & Publicity Report:

Robert Stevenson, Chair of the Education & Publicity Committee, presented the E & P Report.

Motion: That the Education and Publicity Report be accepted. Moved by Robert Stevenson and seconded by Gabriel Beauregard. CARRIED

Research and Development Report:

Jim Baillie, Chair of the Research and Development Committee presented the report.

Motion: That the Research and Development Report be accepted. Moved by J. Baillie and seconded by G. Girodat. CARRIED

Budget:

D. Adolphe presented the budget for 2008-2009.

Motion: To accept the 2008 – 2009 budget. Moved by Neil Shanks and seconded by Leonard McCardle. CARRIED

Nominating Committee Report:

David Mol presented the report. The nominating procedure for the election will be that he, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee present a nominee for each position and ask for further nominations three times at which time nominations are declared closed. At any time, a motion is accepted from the floor to end nominations.

An election, if necessary, will be by ballot and counting of the ballots will be done by a three person impartial committee designated by the Chairman.

In accordance with the by-law 5:03 (a) the Honorary President is elected at an annual meeting as a vacancy occurs. Cameron Henry of Oak River, Manitoba has completed the three year term. The committee nominated Lorne Fell of Staffa Ontario as the new honorary president. With no new nominations Lorne Fell was nominated as honorary president.

For president, the committee nominated Ed Lefsrud of Viking, Alberta. There being no further nominations, Ed Lefsrud was declared president for the forthcoming year.

As per By-law 7:03(b), the following were elected at their branch annual meetings as grower

directors of the association for 2008 - 2009, effective from the date of the Branch meeting.

British Columbia: Gordon Hill (Taylor)

Alberta: Norman Lyster (Stettler) and Larry Kitz, Two Hills

Saskatchewan: Donna Edwards (Nokomis) and Gerald Girodat (Shaunavon)

Manitoba: Robert Wiens (Domain) and Robert Stevenson (Kenton)

Ontario: Bob Hart (Woodstock) and Neil Shanks (Wheatley)

Quebec: Daniel Lanoie (St. Hugues)

Maritimes: Leonard McCardle (Kinkora, PEI) and James Baillie (Tatamagouche NS)

There being no further nominations the foregoing were declared elected as Directors for the association for 2008 – 2009.

Neil Shanks was declared as 1st Vice President and Gerald Girodat as 2nd Vice President.

The Provincial Ministers of Agriculture have designated the following as Directors for 2007 - 2008 as per By-Law 7:03 (c):

Prince Edward Island: Peter Boswall

New Brunswick: Mike Price

Nova Scotia: Dr. Claude Caldwell

Quebec: Danielle Bernier

Ontario: Brent Kennedy

Manitoba: Dr. Patti Cuthbert

Saskatchewan: Blaine Recksiedler

Alberta: John Brown

British Columbia: Harvey Glasier

As per By-Law 11:01, one Director appointed pursuant to the provision of Bylaw 7:03 (c) shall be elected to the Executive.

For director on the Executive Committee the Nominating Committee nominated Danielle Bernier of Quebec.

The committee also recommends that the individuals on the proposed list be elected as Associate Members for the forthcoming year. This list of Associate Members is published in the annual report.

Motion: to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Moved by D. Mol and seconded by B. Reisner CARRIED

CSGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Left to right: David Mol, Ed Lefsrud, Danielle Bernier, Neil Shanks, Dale Adolphe, Gerald Girodat

CSGA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back Row *left to right*: Robert Stevenson, Dr. Patti Cuthbert, Harvey Glasier, Gordon Hill, Blaine Recksiedler, Robert Wiens, Daniel Lanoie, Peter Boswall, Brent Kennedy, Bob Hart, Norm Lyster, Gerald Girodat, David Mol
Front row *left to right*: Mike Price, James Baillie, Larry Kitz, Donna Edwards, Ed Lefsrud, Danielle Bernier, Neil Shanks, John Brown, and Dale Adolphe
Regrets: Dr. Claude Caldwell, Dr. Bryan Harvey and Leonard McCardle

Resolutions:

Bob Hart presented the resolutions.

Courtesy Resolution #1

The CSGA would like to thank the following individuals and sponsors for their contribution towards the 2008 Annual Meeting:

Jim McCullagh, Executive Director, Canadian Seed Institute
Cathy Breadner, CSAAC
Claude Bernard, Director, MAPAQ

Thank you, Speakers

Chet Boruff, AOSCA
Stephane Pouleur Ph.D, AAC
Dale Adolphe, CSGA
Laurent Pellerin, Agriculture Producer
Jimmy Jean, RBC
Michel Morissette, AGECO

Thank you, Sponsors

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Semences Nicolet

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Nevico inc.-René Cloutier
RDR Grains et Semences

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage for the Enhancement of Official Languages Program.

2008 Convention Committee

Co-Chairs

Danielle Bernier
Daniel Lanoie

Claude Roger
Fernand Marcoux
Danielle Bernier
Daniel Dutilly

Co-ordinators

Patricia Turmel – CRAAQ
Marie-Claude Bouchard - CRAAQ

Hospitality
Martin Provencher
Eric Laflamme

BBQ & Entertainment

Octopus Company

Program - Grower

Danielle Bernier
Daniel Lanoie

Children's program

Imagine! Company – Marie-Josée Houde
Paul Adam
Linda Fréchette

Program - Alternate

Danielle Bernier
Daniel Lanoie
Octopus – Company

Cultural Tour

Danielle Bernier
Daniel Lanoie
Rodrigue Tremblay

Publicity & Promotion

CRAAQ

Finance & Sponsorship

Jean Tétrault
Jacques Dion

Julie Robert

Registration

CRAAQ
FPCCQ
Marianne Verdonck
Fernand Marcoux
Huguette Roger
Francine Dion

Jocelyne Racine
Linda Fréchette
Monique Rioux
Moved by :
Seconded by :

Gabriel Beauregard
Laurence Trepanier

Transportation

Jacques Dion
Jean Tétrault
Paul Adam

Technical Support

André Roussel
Eric Laflamme
Martin Provencher
Jacques Dion
Claude Roger

CARRIED

Resolution # 2

National CSGA E&O/Damages Policy

Whereas

That CSGA members do not have access to adequate and cost effective errors & omissions/damages

And that liability is becoming an increasing concern to a seed growers business

And that the volume of premiums on a national basis will be more affordable than those based on an individual provincial basis.

Therefore
Be It Resolved

that CSGA investigate the potential of a national errors & omissions/damages policy for its members.

Moved by :
Seconded by :

Ron Markert
Don Szendziak

CARRIED

Resolution # 3

Protocol to License Pedigreed Seed Growers

Whereas : There is a growing recognition of the value of pedigreed but limited understanding of pedigreed seed production requirements and potential associated risks & liabilities

And Pedigreed seed growers' knowledge, experience and quality system management are essential elements of pedigreed seed production

Whereas : Pedigreed seed growers & the pedigreed production system is continually being scrutinized

Therefore
Be It Resolved the CSGA in cooperation with provincial branches develop a protocol to license seed growers.

Moved by Richard Stamp
Seconded by Les Trowell

CARRIED

Resolution # 4

Whereas Certain crops such as canola, corn, and some row crops allow pedigreed seed production at the certified, registered and foundation level in the following year without land use inspection

And Whereas growers of pulse crops must apply for and pay for land use inspection

And Whereas Pulse crops can be managed to prevent the volunteer growth of cereal crops just as well as in canola and corn.

Therefore
Be It Resolved that Circular 6 rules be amended to allow the production of pedigreed cereal crops at the Certified level on land that produced a pulse crop in the previous year, without land use inspection.

Moved by Craig Riddell
Seconded by Andrew Kittle

CARRIED

Resolution # 5

Whereas: the annual meeting of the CSGA is a necessary annual event to carry out the business of the association,

Whereas: the costs associated with attending the annual meeting are increasing and costing the provincial associations a large part of their annual budget and the month of July is becoming busier for many seed growers, making it difficult to attend the annual meeting, and

Whereas: many of the provincial boards meet in November at the Interprovincial meeting

Therefore
be it Resolved that the provincial associations be encouraged to expand the Interprovincial meeting to include all the associations, and the CSGA annual meeting be held in conjunction with the Interprovincial meeting.

Moved by Randy Court
Seconded by Ron Markert

DEFEATED

Speaker: Dr. Michel Morissette, President-Director, Groupe AGECO

Dr. Morissette is a widely traveled professor and does presentations all over the world. He sees huge differences in India, China, and Canada when taking into account the cultivated land that is being used, the population, and the food production. For example, in India 60% of the land is used for agricultural purposes while only 7% of the land is used in Canada. Dr. Morissette compared the growth of GDP in China, India and Canada in recent years.

Awards and Membership Committee Report:

The report of the Awards & Membership Committee was presented at the banquet by Chairman D. Mol and French translation by D. Bernier.

Honorary Life Membership Award Certificates were presented by E. Lefsrud to the following recipient: Jacques Dion of Melbourne, Québec. Dr. Duane Falk of Guelph, Ontario and André Lemonde of Saint-Hyacinth, Québec also received Honorary Life Membership Award Certificates but were not able to attend. Their awards will be presented at their future branch meetings.

Robertson Associate certificates and pins were presented by E. Lefsrud to the following recipients: Jean-Denis Aumont, St-Alexis de Montcalm, Québec, Rosaire Gagnon, Ste-Elizabeth, Québec, Bruno Laquerre, Saint-Casimir, Québec, Barry Reisner, Limerick, Saskatchewan, and Lawrence Trepanier, Staffa, Ontario.

Ellen Lefsrud presented all of the spouses of the award recipients with a framed blown glass wheat display.

Everyone enjoyed the entertainment; Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, Wolfe, Montcalm. He provided a history lesson to the audience and answered the numerous questions as he visited with each of the guests.

Presidents Report

Ed Lefsrud
President

Welcome ladies, gentlemen, fellow seed growers and friends.

There is no way anyone could have told me what a jewel this place is. I hope that you, like me, are fully taken back by the surrounding beautiful scenery.

I wish to make note of the historical event occurring around us these days in this beautiful province. Where I come from, the central prairies, most of the farms and small towns are in the midst of celebrating 100 years of existence. Where we are today, however, in Quebec City, the numbers carry a true historical weight of 400 years. The 400 years is very impressive and I have seen signs all over Québec City recognizing the significance of the 400th anniversary.

I would like to mention some of the local foods in Québec because this is our business. The natives; or long time residents of this region, had what they called the “three sisters of food” – beans, squash and corn, and wild rice. These plants, with some help from Plant Breeders are still the kings of food to North America and the world’s population.

When spring started to appear and the “Sugar Moon” arrived the local people collected the maple sap drippings into wooden containers, dropping hot rocks into the sap helped concentrate the liquid and hence our beloved maple sweetness.

In the late 1800’s Trappist monks to the North West of Montreal created a cheese that was painted with brine and left to slowly age. The name OKOW, or golden pickerel became known as the Oka cheese.

I wish to make note of the small groups of highly dedicated people who work to better agriculture and keep the seed growers in business. The plant breeding community and their institutions are very active and their ideas, practices and new varieties for a better agriculture are endless.

Besides better yields and disease resistance this year, as a first we are starting a journey with “wheat” that hopefully will make the Orange blossom wheat midge problem dissolve or be manageable. Our problems in agriculture are constant and a daily challenge and I would like to say a special thank you to all of the Plant Breeders that are working on resolving some of these issues.

As seed growers we are often responding to inquires from customers. Do go out of your way and attend events this summer and coming winter. Work to stay abreast of new technology so your advice will be current and relevant to your customers.

Seed growers have always been called upon by the most astute farmers and business associates for our expertise and quality products but now everyone is counting on us for a perfect product. We have always been in the food industry, but this past year or so we have been thrust into the fuel and fibre component of the economy as well. The added attention to our industry, exciting as it is, shall demand time and management from all of us to maintain a positive relationship with the public. Shortages of any kind, food or fuel will not be tolerated.

As for me personally, attempting to stimulate debate and guide our association for the betterment of all has been my goal. I have enjoyed working on your behalf and I wish all of you the best.

My summary of the Presidents travels this past winter in chronological order.

The Maritimes may be on to something in hoping to create a pelletized fuel for industrial and home heating. A common theme from the Maritimes is a desire for increases in funding for public plant breeding.

One of our mandates as managers of agriculture and the seed business is to attract and retain the best and brightest youth into this sector to ensure a healthy Canadian economy. Dr. Claude Caldwell of Truro, Nova Scotia has put in extra time to create, and make available, agriculture courses pertaining to seed production at Colleges and Universities across Canada. I would like to thank Claude for helping expand the talent pool. All of us should encourage the youth and young people in our midst to consider a career in agriculture. We are the food, fibre and fuel people of the future. It is a strong sector of the national economy and the future is bright.

The Ontario Branch is not relaxing after their successful clean out contest of last year. They continue to work promoting Certified Seed usage and are promoting a “biggy” – the Certified Seed Tax Credit Program. Other provinces could help by lending a hand to promote this idea nationally.

Manitoba loves a party and these people have their own trade show and day of lectures called Genetic Expo. This all takes place before their annual general meeting to help create a positive public profile.

Saskatchewan, the hub of western agriculture is continuing to explore new ideas and possibilities in agriculture research.

British Columbia, by far the smallest branch, with the closest to near perfect attendance at its annual meeting is going to cause us to change our bylaws, making it easier for provincial directors to share the national work load.

Alberta, the home of endless labour shortages is working on mentoring the youth into agriculture and expanding our talent pool. As in other provinces, Alberta is working to increase the amount of money going into agriculture research.

Quebec has been busier than usual this past year, organizing this *grand affair*. The organizing committee have put in a lot of hours and seed growers from coast to coast are benefiting from their hard work. The branch is very energetic and youthful which is nice to see.

We have many irons in the fire – a few of them are:

Probably our biggest play for the foreseeable future is to defend the wheat growing area of Canada from the Orange Blossom Wheat Midge and to be able to get a moral commitment from the farmers and all the other players in the wheat business to safe guard the integrity of the SM1 gene from midge mutation. It is job number one and it is *huge*.

The loss of Kernel Visuability Descriptions (KVD) is generating a new set of problems in the wheat growing community.

Our electronic crop inspection application forms debuted this summer. An electronic means of signing checks to avoid courier charges and a new debate – office space – continue to lease or purchase is also up for discussion. Our association is very similar to a farm; income for a short period once a year and twelve months of expenses, so budget discipline is a must.

The past twelve months have seen considerable change in the make up of the National Board of Directors. Retiring from the board after many years of service to us are Larry Littman of Saskatchewan, Mike McAvoy of Saskatchewan, and Ivan Nyborg of the Maritimes. All three are pilots and we wish them well. Please note the increase in the number of females on the national board, Danielle Bernier, provincial representative of Quebec, Dr. Patricia Cuthbert, provincial representative of Manitoba, and Donna Edwards, seed grower in Saskatchewan.

I would like to thank the national board and everyone who attended this years' annual meeting in beautiful Québec City.

Report from the Board of Directors

Neil Shanks
1st Vice-President

Since the last Report to the Annual Meeting, your Board of Directors has met twice, once in November 2007, and again earlier this week.

In November the various Committees met – Circular 6, Appeals, Standards, Education and Publicity, Research and Development, and Awards. This week most of those Committees met again, and their reports will be presented to you at this Annual Meeting.

At the November Board Meeting we participated in a Strategic Planning Session. While a large number of topics were discussed, the key points focused on:

- 1) CSGA's core business – what we're doing, our strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and ultimately what our opportunities might be for:
 - a) bolstering the core business
 - b) increasing CSGA's relevance in the rapidly changing Agri-Food, bio-economy, and I.P./traceability worlds.
 - c) providing improved communication and service to the entire value chain including Grower members, farmer customers, and downstream customers.
- 2) Governance Structure – is the Board as effective and efficient as possible? We need to strive to identify improvement opportunities and methods of implementation.
- 3) Research – while CSGA (including its Grower members) has been a tremendous supporter of research, the challenge is how we can do more.

The results of the Strategic Planning Session, the discussions, ideas, questions, etc. will continue to be a work in progress and input should not be limited to the National Board level but needs to extend to the Provincial Branch Boards and right on to each of us as Growers.

Over the years there have been many formal and informal discussions about the CSGA Annual Meeting -- format, timing, funding, etc. In November, yet another formal discussion took place. There was certainly no consensus on the idea of making a drastic change in the format or timing of the meeting.

Considerable analysis was done regarding one item within the Grower Application and Inspection Fees. The particular item – “Variety Fees” poses several problems related to the individual grower invoicing portion of the computer software. The Board passed a motion to eliminate the variety fee in favour of a slightly different fee which would recover those dollars, but in a revenue neutral (to CSGA) manner. The challenge has been to recover the loss of variety fees in a manner which was equitable to growers in all regions of the country. Significant further analysis of this matter was prepared by staff members, and reviewed by the Executive Committee in March, and this week by the Board of Directors. This will be presented as part of the Budget discussions here.

It was brought to the Board's attention, on Wednesday, that while Seed Growers and Registered Seed Establishments are certainly being adequately regulated and monitored, there have been seed quality deficiencies identified as a result of post-conditioning activities. The cause of these seed quality problems appears to be related to the blending of carry-over seed lots. There are insufficient Procedures in place to deal with transportation, storage, treating, blending and re-testing of seed from previous years' seed lots. The unfortunate result of the

lack of due diligence has been the sale of seed that may no longer meet the requirements of Certified Seed. Ultimately the resulting crops have been seriously compromised, and the reputation of Certified Seed has been severely tarnished. Your Board, in co-operation with your Branch Boards and associated agencies, (the CSTA, CFIA, CSI, and CSAAC) intends on addressing this matter as quickly as possible.

The Standards Committee is a committee of the entire Board of Directors plus representatives from CFIA, CSTA, CSI, and CSAAC. This committee receives and approves Reports from each of the outside Associations and Agencies in addition to Reports from the Appeals and Circular 6 Committees.

The Standards Committee received an extensive report by CFIA at our meeting on Tuesday. Topics included:

- 1) The Strategic Action Plan which so far has involved 5 regional and 2 national meetings has resulted in an updated draft Plan which will be presented later this year.
- 2) Amendments to the Seeds Act were finalized November 7.
- 3) The elimination of the KVD requirement in wheat, including implications with regard to the importation of seed of non-registered varieties.
- 4) The Amendments to Variety Registration have been published in Canada Gazette Part I, as of June 28, 2008. The consultative process involving the NFS and its working groups were the driving force which has resulted in these Amendments finally coming to fruition.
- 5) Finally CFIA with CSGA's assistance is working diligently on the methodology to allow for the Certification of varietal blends for wheat midge resistant varieties. They are working towards publishing the procedures in Canada Gazette I by November 2008.

Education & Publicity Report

Robert Stevenson
Chair

I would like to report on what we have accomplished in the last year and our plans for 2008 and 2009.

We will continue to publish three Seed Scoop issues and the calendar.

Last July we decided to fund the development of University teaching modules on seed production. This project will be completed July 31, 2008. It will consist of a series of lectures and labs targeted at first and second year Agriculture students and Graduate Students. They will include one week of lectures and lab for the first year, two weeks of material for second years, and up to a month at the Graduate level.

I am sorry that Dr. Claude Caldwell from (NSAC) Nova Scotia Agricultural College is not here today to give this meeting and an introduction to his material, but I assure you we are extremely pleased with the work he has done and will be proud of the finished product. Our next step will be to translate the material into French as required and introduce the courses to University and College Instructors.

Our goal is to have every agriculture student in Canada graduate with a basic understanding of the Pedigreed Seed System and its importance to Canadian Agriculture.

Several years ago we applied to ACAAF for funding a number of E &P initiatives. In March we received \$114,000 for this year. This money will be spent on promoting Pedigreed Seed through advertising in Farm Publications, Seed Retailer Support, and promoting pedigreed seed to end users. This will be a timely message, especially in western Canada where the end of KVD is approaching quickly. As part of the ACAAF proposal we are required to complete a survey to determine the effectiveness of the "Sharing the Message" Campaign.

Our total budget for 2008 - 2009 will be \$153,700 as compared to \$94,000 last year.

Last November we had a joint E &P meeting with the CSTA External Relations Committee. We discussed the priorities we are currently working on and areas of common interest. This is the second meeting we have had since I have been chair of this committee and we intend to continue to meet on an annual basis. We have the same goal as CSTA in increasing the use of Pedigreed Seed and see great value in meeting on a regular basis to co-ordinate our activities.

I would like to thank the E&P Committee and the CSGA staff who have contributed so much over the last year. I especially want to thank Dr. Claude Caldwell for initiating the University Course project and the work NSAC and Claude have put into this project. I also want to recognize the efforts of the E&P committees in every Branch across Canada. You are doing an excellent job of promoting Pedigreed Seed in every region and we thank you for that.

Research & Development Report

James (Jim) Baillie
Chair

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association provides research grants on an annual basis. Based on satisfactory performance and availability of funds an additional one or two years may be granted. A national director is chosen to visit the research site to ensure that the funds are being spent in the best interests of our members.

A total amount of \$75,000 was available for research and development funding in 2008. In November 2007, the committee approved the following continuing and new projects.

Continuing Project	Term of Project	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Site Visit by Director
"The effect of flowering synchrony on canola (Brassica napus) outcrossing rates" by Marie-Josée Simard AAFC, Sainte-Foy, QC)	Final Year, 3 of 3	\$10,000	\$10,000	Danielle Bernier

New Projects	Term of Project	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Site Visit by Director
"Fertility potential of seven Canadian crops", Pierre Hucl, University of Saskatchewan	3 years	\$4,600/year	\$4,600	Larry Littman
"Seedborne transmission of clubroot of canola: evaluation of significance and control." Dr. Stephen Strelkov, University of Alberta	2 years	\$12,000/year	\$12,000	Larry Kitz
"Acceptability for Pedigreed Seed Production of a conservative, Quasi-physical Model of Wheat Out-crossing Franco DiGiovanni Airzone One Ltd.	1 Year	\$12,000/year	\$6,000	Neil Shanks

There is \$90,000 allocated in the 2008-2009 budget for research and developments projects with the maximum per project increased from \$12,000 per year to a maximum of \$15,000 per year. New and on-going projects will be considered for approval when the Committee meets in November 2008.

I want to thank Larry Littman for his leadership and chairmanship of the R&D Committee over recent years. As Larry did not let his name stand for re-election as a Director, a new chairman of the Committee will be selected later this week.