



ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending July 31, 2022

2021 / 2022

Growing Healthy Potatoes Together

MISSION

The PGA is a progressive, member-driven organization focusing on **success** and **sustainability** in Alberta's potato industry through **leadership**, **engagement**, **collaboration** and truly effective **communication**.

CORE VALUES

The PGA is a progressive organization based on the unity of our members. We continually strive to enhance unity through member involvement and engagement.

As a member driven organization, we recognize the importance of trust, respect and transparency in all we do.

Our members operate in an industry founded on tradition and impacted by change. We support our members by focusing on environmental, economic, industry and grower sustainability.

In order to be responsive to our members and proactive in addressing the challenges of the future, we strive to excel at servant leadership and collaboration.

Communication is vital to all we do. Through use of skills, technology and understanding, we ensure that we communicate in a truly effective manner.



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VISION

Producer Members of the PGA are committed to responsible production of potatoes to supply a complex food chain. Potato producers in Alberta have developed the "Codes of Practice" and are committed to managing their operations in accordance with these codes. These codes identify desired results and define actions expected of producers. The seven codes contained in this document include:

- **Food Safety**
- **Food Quality**
- **Agronomy & Pest Management**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Identity Preservation**
- **Farm Safety**
- **Human Resources**



MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TERENCE HOCHSTEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer." - Will Rogers

These fourteen words, spoken by actor Will Rogers, describe a farmer in the most true, honest, and simplistic way imaginable. Without optimism, a farmer is destined to fail. We have no control over inputs, weather or the markets, yet every year we faithfully move forward in hopes of our best crop ever. Some years we are successful, some are just an exercise in futility, yet every year we continue to plan for the next one.

The 2021 crop was one of those years, where spring started out with great resolve and a bright outlook. In general, most felt that the worst of the COVID pandemic was behind us and that the agricultural community came through the last few years relatively unscathed. The future was looking bright with total planted acres being up higher than ever. Planting went by relatively uneventful and we were off to a good start. Then June rolled around and overnight conditions changed to what would become one of the worst growing seasons on record. Traditionally, late May and early June brings plentiful rains and cool temperatures, conditions that are conducive to the crop getting established and well on its way to row closure by the 1st week of July. However, this never happened and around the 12th of June a heat wave established itself over the western half of North America, with temperatures soaring to the mid 30's. This weather pattern, later referred to as an 'Infamous Heat Dome' stayed until the end of August. No rain, temperatures reaching the low 40's in July and August's hot dry winds determined the outcome of the crop before it even got started. Agronomically, the crop experienced some challenges that were firsts in the industry. Whole fields dropping their first sets, heat damage that did not show up until the spring of 2022 in the case of some seed lots and complete

storages going down in a matter of days after harvest. The list goes on and on with first time occurrences. When harvest was finally complete, growers were disappointed in the results, as yields were reflective of 2013-14 levels. What started out as a season of promise ended in a harvest of frustration, thus leaving everyone looking forward to the next crop and opportunity.

As in all years, the beginning of the next crop starts soon after harvest is complete. Many hours were spent in preparation of our first contract meetings. A huge thank you goes out to the Negotiating Committee for their unwavering **dedication** to obtain the best possible outcome for all growers. Regardless of the crop being planted, everyone was faced with the same situation with their 2022 crop resulting in the most expensive crop ever planted. Crop inputs had increased dramatically, in some cases the increase was up over 75% year over year. This, coupled with post pandemic global shortages was going to make the upcoming crop a challenge, to say the least. In the end, growers approved a contract that covered most of the increase in expenses, but did little to affect the ROI of the operation. The conversation continues around the risk of such a huge investment with minimal returns. This will be a continued focus, in not only the processing side of our industry, but also the seed and fresh sector as well.

The PGA continues to, not only work and **advocate** for the industry here in Alberta, but work tirelessly on the national and international level. Our involvement in the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (previously Canadian Horticultural Council), Canadian Potato Council, Potato Sustainability Alliance, Alliance for Potato Research and Education, United Potato Growers of Canada, Potato Marketing

The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer.” - Will Rogers

Association of North America are but a few of the many organizations that we are actively involved in, representing the Alberta growers and our industry.

Part of the ongoing advocacy work is the role that the PGA Board plays in the continued **success** of the Alberta potato industry. Their dedication and hours of work have positioned our organization to be successful for today and for future generations to come. I would like to personally thank all of our Board members for their service to the Potato Growers of Alberta. James Bareman (Chairman), Tony Bos (Vice Chairman), Alison Davie, JP Claassen, Jeff Ekkel, Lyndon Nakamura and Tony Kirkland. Your time spent on the success of the industry does not go unnoticed and thanks is often not enough.

One of the biggest changes this past year was the decision to move forward with the construction of the new PGA office in Taber. The old structure that was originally built in the late 1950's had served the organization well, but its lifespan had reached its limit. In April, the old structure was torn down to make way for the new office. Once completed, this building will provide a home for many generations to come.

Speaking of changes, I would like to give recognition to our outgoing Board members, Tony Bos, Jeff Ekkel

and Lyndon Nakamura. These three gentlemen have served their terms on the Board and have left their mark on the future of our organization. A huge thank you, on behalf of the membership, for all you've contributed.

I would also like to thank my team (Cindy, Stacey, Deb, Juanita and Thomas) for all their hard work and dedication to the organization. Most of the work goes unrecognized albeit, this is what makes our organization successful and the envy of many others across North America.

As I enter my 12th year of working for this great organization, I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you. Every day is both rewarding and challenging, as no two days are alike.

This organization is well positioned to continue to lead for many generations to come, and I am humbled to be part of it.

Until next year,



- Terence Hochstein, PGA Executive Director



L-R: Demolition on the PGA office building began April 20th, 2022 and went down the next day. After a couple of weeks of clean-up and grading, work on the new building started May 2nd. Today, the exterior is complete with some landscaping complete and interior work continues. More photos on page 24.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TONY BOS
BOSTON FARMS LTD.



VICE CHAIRMAN,
SOUTH-AREA DIRECTOR

JEFF EKKELE
SUNNYCREST SEED POTATOES



NORTH-AREA DIRECTOR

LYNDON NAKAMURA
NAKAMURA FARMS LTD.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

JP CLAASSEN
PRAIRIE SPUD FARM



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

ALISON DAVIE
NORTH PADDOCK FARMS LTD.



SOUTH-AREA DIRECTOR

TONY KIRKLAND
SANDHILLS SEED POTATOES LTD.



NORTH-AREA DIRECTOR

JAMES BAREMAN
BAR 9 FARMS LTD.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



CHAIRMAN
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

“The pioneers of this organization laid its foundation on trust, teamwork, good relations and hard work. I challenge you all to carry on that legacy as the PGA continues to grow.”

We are coming to the end of the 2022 crop year. From my very amateur projections as I write this, it looks

to be a fairly average crop. I think everyone had their struggles at some point in the growing season. However, if we look at the struggles that our friends and colleagues across Canada have gone through over the past year, it certainly puts our average season into perspective. Alberta is a great place to grow a secure supply of quality potatoes.

Your board has had a busy past year engaged in the management and direction of the Alberta potato Industry. It's exciting to be part of such a young vibrant industry. As the PGA grows, we are always reflecting on how the organization can support the growers or engage the public in new ways.

This past year, we broke ground on a new office building. While our past building served us well for many years, we had reached the point of requiring some major renovations or starting fresh. I'm not sure the floor upstairs could still hold a grower meeting. That's more a commentary on the floor than our members. Thankfully, we have a very capable building committee in charge of that and the project seems to be going smoothly. It's exciting for those who drive through Taber regularly to see the progress.

We also bid farewell to our technical director Thomas McDade. Thomas excelled at grant writing and maximized the dollars available for research and other projects in our industry. We wish him well. Looking forward, the new structure of funding appears to be tied to climate initiatives. We will have to wait and see what kind of effect this has on the

important research that is being done in our industry.

September 1st saw a new face in the office. We welcomed Miss Rebecca Wieler as our new Ag Relations Director. Although Rebecca is relatively new to the potato industry, her enthusiasm and willingness to learn will provide a platform for growth and opportunity where she will be an asset to the team.

I would also like to acknowledge the rest of the staff in their hard work and dedication over the past year. Terence, Stacey, Cindy, Deb, and Juanita, you are all a valuable resource to our industry and your hard work and support are much appreciated.

Looking forward, I have no doubts that the future of the PGA is bright. This year, for the first time, we surpassed 70,000 acres of potatoes in Alberta. Worldwide, we are seeing the demand for potatoes outpace supply. Our organization is full of enthusiastic growers who are passionate about farming, good growing practices and connecting with consumers. We also have a government that recognizes the value of what Alberta agriculture has to offer the world. They have made commitments which will strengthen our world class irrigation system and are investing in the establishment of an Agri-Food corridor in southern Alberta.

The pioneers of this organization laid its foundation on trust, teamwork, good relations and hard work. I challenge you all to carry on that legacy as the PGA continues to grow.

- James Bareman, PGA Chairman

RESEARCH UPDATE

ALISON DAVIE, CHAIR



With the majority of the pandemic restrictions lifted, many of the researchers the PGA works with were able to meet in-person again and conduct their full research projects. We continue to support the great work by various researchers across the province from the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge College, AAFC and various other organizations. We value the contribution our research community is making to the advancement of the potato industry here in Alberta.

2022 started off unkind in Southern Alberta; fluctuating temperatures and high winds led to a lot of soil blowing. This brought the topic of soil health to the forefront on many peoples' minds. Growers are aware of the challenges of farming in a northern climate and continue to look for ways to improve soil health while working within the confines of mother nature.

Climate change is a major focus of the Cluster 4 CAP funding. Over the coming months we will see proposals around this topic across the research committee desk. Sustainability and consumer perception will be increasingly important moving forward; so as an industry we will need to continue to prove that we are taking steps to reduce erosion, prevent nutrient losses, and lessen our overall carbon footprint.

This is our last year of CAP funding for our national projects, they will be expiring at the end of March 2023. Those projects include:

- Colorado Potato Beetle Resistance Program
- Late Blight Strain Program
- National Wireworm Program
- AAFC Variety Trials

The spore trapping and insect monitoring program continue to provide huge value to our growers. With spore trapping done in more than a dozen locations throughout the province, this helps assist all growers with their fungicide timing. The insect monitoring has helped the industry by providing a snap shot of what is actually in the field, plus it has aided in maintaining trade relations.

The PGA has also worked this year, in collaboration with the Alberta Plant Health Lab and funding from RDAR/CAP, to develop a platform for potato diagnostic testing protocols for all known potato pathogens. This initiative is improving rapid diagnostic testing capacity within the province.



Will Feindel (Lab Technician) and Dr. Junye Jiang (Project Lead) at the Alberta Plant Health Lab

The PGA also continues to support the Canada Potato Early Die Project, with the help of Dmytro Yevtushenko and this team at the University of Lethbridge. They are constantly looking for new fields to survey, so if you'd like to be part of this research, please reach out to a Dmytro or the PGA.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Harold Perry, for his many years on the research committee. He has always provided a valuable perspective on research proposals as they came to the committee. I would also like to welcome Rebecca Wieler into her new role as Ag Relations Coordinator.

As a committee, we are always looking to add new members with an interest in strengthening the industry through research. If you are interested, please reach out to one of the committee members.

- Alison Davie, Research Committee Chair

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alison Davie (Chair)	Wayne Unrau
Art Hazelhoff	Yorian Drost
Harold Perry	Thomas McDade
Bruce Chedzoy	Stacey Bajema
Michel Camps	

SEED UPDATE

JEFF EKKEI, CHAIR

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

The activities of the seed committee are similar to growing crops. Every year, there are constant things that need to be done but there are also new or unexpected challenges to face. We continue to participate in the long, slow process of Seed Regulation Modernization project CFIA is undertaking, with the goal of providing input to make the delivery of their services mutually beneficial. Membership in the Canadian Potato Council (CPC) remains important, as it is the main organization that we communicate with CFIA and our federal government. Through the CPC we continue to lobby for increased transparency in the actions and decisions that are made by CFIA and the federal government.

After a hot, dry summer in 2021, Alberta had fewer seed potatoes to market. This, when combined with the exclusion of PEI from the US market, caused large demand for our potatoes. Alberta seed growers planted more acres in 2022, and with good growing conditions, the outlook is to have a great crop to market in 2023.

We are continuing to support and encourage our growers to participate in the Hawaii Post Harvest test. The committee feels it is important to keep this visual grow-out option available for our growers, as it shows the excellence of our product.

Lastly, I would like to thank Stacey Bajema and all the staff at the PGA for their work and dedication to our industry.

Please reach out to me or any other members of the committee if you have questions or concerns.

-Jeff Ekkel, Seed Committee Chair

SEED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff Ekkel (Chair)
Jake Hoogland
Ben Meyer
Bruce Chedzoy
Gord Visser

Jan Vermue
Peiter Kamper
Tony Kirkland
Stacey Bajema



“...it shows the excellence of our product”



NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

GREG NAKAMURA, CHAIR

The 2021 growing season was surely one growers would like to forget. It brought extreme heat in July, which seemed to have the potato plants put all their energy into the vines, while aborting the tubers. This was extremely frustrating and concerning for growers as late August showed there was not many tubers under the plants. Growers waited until late September to harvest Russets and yields went from good to very bad. The low yields resulted in the processors being short on their needs.

With Covid still lingering around, the 2022 negotiations were, once again, done remotely. Covid has taught us many things; some good, some bad. One of the positives, is that you can still get things accomplished through zoom or team meetings, which can be arranged very quickly. This certainly helps the committee keep you, the growers, informed on what we were doing, as well as, receiving instant feedback from you.

The 2022 negotiations started in earnest early this year, as Lamb Weston was eager to get talks going. A settlement in Washington had set the precedent, it was an increase of around the 20% range. This increase was on account of rising cost of production in the industry, due to issues caused during the pandemic (eg. labour problems, supply issues and transportation to name a few). The committee felt that Alberta would need an increase over and above this, as we had fallen behind because of the three-year agreement we just finishing up. The first offer from Lamb Weston was well below our expectations and was quickly rejected and countered by us. I was expecting this to be the last of the meeting and was surprised when Lamb Weston came back with a counter #2 offer, which ended up significantly better, but still well below our expectations. At this time, it

was apparent that they're intent was to try and come to an agreement with us. We came back with our counter offer and then Lamb Weston countered with their offer that we would finally accept. It was a storage increase of \$2.33/cwt and a field increase in the 24% range. Next up was McCain's, who we met with in December and ended up settling in January. This settlement was similar in value to the Lamb Weston agreement, but had an early season addendum to protect the growers that are being asked to dig early. McCain's also added money on late season storing to encourage growers to put in refrigeration. After settling with two of the three processors, we thought we would have all the fry contracts done early, but that was not the case, as Cavendish did not meet with us until March. After a few back and forth's, we were able to reach an agreement with Cavendish. All the agreements were of equal value, with each company coming up with the version that best suited themselves. Volumes were up at all three processors and they were having a tough time meeting their needs, due to seed and land issues.

We hope to start negotiations early again this year and have everything wrapped up before planting. I want to wish the growers a safe and plentiful harvest. As always, if you have any needs or questions answered, please call me or any member of the negotiation committee.

- Greg Nakamura, Negotiation Committee Chairman

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Greg Nakamura
(Chair)
Laus Stiekema
Lloyd Ypma
Mark Miyanaga

Mike Wind
Jaap Remijn
Tony Bos
Terence Hochstein



PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

COLLABORATION



HANNEKE CAMPS, BOARD REP

In December 2021, we launched the FARMERS CARE Lifesaving Opportunities. FARMERS CARE is a free, simple, and practical tool focused on agricultural health and safety hazards. It was designed to help farmers and ranchers recognize hazards on their farm and find ways to prevent injuries. It gives you a chance to recognize what you already do on your farm and improve where needed.

Throughout the year, we worked on expanding and paving the road towards the FARMERS CARE level 2,3 and 4. This will help farms continue and expand the safety procedures they have and grow this into an AgSafe certification.

To get more interaction, we are building a confined space, and a mask fitting workshop, also a digital fire extinguisher was purchased.

Education in safety is a major part of AgSafe. We are working with an Alberta College to have safety included in their Ag courses and start seeding safety with the next generation of farmers.

I would like to make everyone aware AgSafe is not only there to advise in safety programming, it also has a hotline available 24/7 for incidence assistance. If you experience a serious incident on your farm AgSafe will be able to provide you with confidential support. They are there to advise in steps to take, what to expect, dealing with OHS and other reporting and documents that need to be in place. They were a tremendous help on our farm when we needed them.

If you are not signed up already check out our website www.agsafeab.ca sign up for the monthly newsletter with handy tips and awareness on safety. Let's seed safety and let it grow!

-Hanneke Camps, AgSafe PGA Representative



RUSS STEWART, PRESIDENT

The APIA was formed in 1990 as an organized way for individuals from businesses to support the potato industry that they are in business partnership with. The mission and goals for the APIA remain the same as the previous year. Executive positions for the upcoming year are as follows: President – Russ Stewart, Treasurer – Lawrence Gratton, and Secretary – Mike Duell.

Jared Bell remains as the Committee Chair for the golf tournament, Jessica Joss, Chair of the Membership Committee and Erin Anderson, Chair of the Trade Show Committee, also remain the same.

Burgers N Beans was held in July and went well and discussion has begun on next year's event. The 2022 golf tournament all went smooth, with positive feedback on the APIA hole in one prize of \$50,000.

This year again, we hired junior golf members from the club to watch the hole and made a \$500 donation to their program. We also had a \$500 prize for the golfer who was closest to the pin.

If you are interested in a membership, please contact Jessica Joss at jessica.joss@rbc.com.

The financial position of the association remains healthy. Tremendous support from our members and exhibitors has allowed us to maintain our financial position.

In closing, a large thank you is extended to the directors who contribute to the events and activities of the APIA. Without their support, it would not be possible to do the things that we do. THANK YOU!

-Russ Stewart, APIA President

ACROSS THE NATION



Canadian Potato Council
Conseil canadien de la pomme



Canadian
Horticultural
Council



FRUIT & VEGETABLE
GROWERS
OF CANADA | **PRODUCTEURS**
DE FRUITS ET LÉGUMES
DU CANADA

The year 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Horticultural Council and the rebranding of the organization as the Fruit & Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC) to better reflect the industry that we represent.

The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) is supported by the membership of eleven provincial potato grower organizations from eight provinces to represent potato growers on issues of national significance. Some of our activities over the past year are reported below.

ONGOING COVID-19 IMPACT

The shift to virtual industry meetings continued for 2021 and into 2022. The CPC met virtually in both in March and July 2021. In December 2021, public health regulations allowed the CPC to meet in-person/virtually in Ottawa for the first time since the start of the pandemic, providing the opportunity to reconnect with one another. Virtual only meetings returned in March 2022 for the CPC and FVGC Annual meetings. CPC Working Groups continued to meet virtually and demonstrated progress on objectives. All export market development activities under Potatoes Canada (growers in Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are funding partners) that were focused on attendance at tradeshow were cancelled this year due to travel restrictions.

POLICY & REGULATION

The Potato Grade Standards were reviewed by an Industry Working Group and this work was completed and submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in March 2021. The proposed amended Grade Standard for potatoes will be open for public consultation when published by the CFIA, probably by the end of 2022. It is expected that the amended potato grades will not be in force until the 2023 crop.

An industry/CFIA Working Group continues to review with the objective of modernization, the Seed Regulations related to seed potatoes (Part II). Following

a stakeholder survey, work commenced on an in-depth review of various aspects of the Regulations through the establishment of small-group, industry-led Task Teams (TTs). The first TT examined aspects of seed certification and has now reported back their recommendations to the Working Group. In total, eight TTs will closely examine various aspects of the Regulations, and those include: Variety Registration, Traceability, Movement, Field Inspection, Grading, Import & Export, and Testing. The full Working Group recommendations are expected to go out for public consultation in the Fall of 2023.

POTATO WART

As of July 2022, potato wart has been found in 35 fields in PEI since 2000. As a result of two additional detections in October 2021 in processing potato fields that were already under regulation, the movement of seed potatoes and fresh potatoes from PEI to the United States (US) was suspended by the CFIA. Also in November, a Ministerial Order was put in place to prevent the spread of potato wart to the rest of Canada and abroad and to address the associated risks. The Order restricts the domestic movement of seed potatoes from PEI. New risk mitigation measures for potatoes leaving PEI including table stock and processing potatoes, as well as other regulated 'things' (soil, sod, farming equipment) were introduced by CFIA. On April 1, 2022, the US announced that imports of PEI potatoes for consumption can now resume with conditions. Field grown seed potatoes from PEI may not be exported to the U.S. at this time.

The CPC has been very active in representing potato growers across Canada on the management of potato wart in Prince Edward Island (PEI) and mitigation of spread. An International Expert Panel of potato wart scientists and regulators was formed by the CFIA to provide independent advice and recommendations on the management of land in PEI. The five Panel members visited PEI in August 2022 to gain understanding of the situation there. The CPC had the opportunity to present the

concerns of the uncertainty of risks associated with potato wart for the national potato sector to present the perspective and concerns of the uncertainty of risks associated with potato wart for the national potato sector. The CPC also has representation on the Resource Group to the Panel, that has the role of providing information to the Panel and clarifying any questions that they may have. Further, the CPC is represented on a Working Group that is reviewing the Potato Wart Domestic Long Term Management Plan that guides the regulation and management of infested and associated fields on PEI. The review of the Plan is critical to identifying gaps and implementing mitigation measures to prevent further spread of potato wart on PEI. This review will consider the recommendations of the International Expert Panel.

To maintain the Pest Free Area from potato wart in provinces outside of PEI, the CFIA initiated a National Potato Wart Survey in the Fall of 2021 where 1,021 soils samples were tested and all were negative for potato wart. The 2022 survey will collect 1,500 samples from across Canada (except for PEI and Newfoundland) and will once again focus on seed potato farms, particularly those with historical sourcing of PEI seed potatoes. The survey is critical to maintaining the potato wart-free status of areas outside of PEI and provide confidence to our trading partners.

POTATO RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Progress continued in eight potato projects (Colorado potato beetle, late blight, necrotic viruses, variety evaluation, smart farming, wireworm, potato early dying) funded under the AAFC Canadian Research Cluster for Horticulture3 with the fifth and last field season wrapping up in the Fall of 2022.

The CPC Research Working Group continued to implement the Potato Cluster3 Knowledge Transfer Plan that included the following activities:

- **Following the publication of a Cluster3 overview article and the wireworm project last year in SpudSmart magazine, this collaboration continued with articles on all projects now published (late blight/winter 2021; smart farming/spring 2021; Colorado potato beetle/summer 2021; variety evaluation/fall 2021; common scab/winter 2022; potato early dying/spring 2022;necrotic viruses summer 2022).**
- **Webinars on the wireworm (November 2020), late blight (March 2021) and potato early dying (March 2022) projects;**

- **Growers are encouraged to visit the bilingual Canadian Potato Research Cluster website (potatoresearchcluster.ca) to access detailed research project reports.**

The CPC Research Working Group has been very active over the past year identifying national research priorities for potatoes for the next funding cycle (2023-2028) under Cluster 4. **The CPC Potato Research and Innovation Strategy** was revised to include priorities for the period 2023-2028. Twenty-four Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received for potatoes. The EOIs were screened against the Cluster program criteria, and roughly 16 were selected fully, or partially, to advance to the full proposal stage. After peer review, proposals will be selected by the RWG for inclusion in the Cluster4 funding application of the FVGC to be submitted in January 2023.

The Alliance for Potato Research and Education (APRE) is funded by Canadian processing growers (PE, NB, MB, AB) along with US grower counterparts and the major processing companies. Independent clinical research trials are funded each year that investigate the nutritional and health benefits of potatoes in the diet. There are now twenty-five funded clinical studies published in peer reviewed journals, six review articles and commentaries have published. Two studies have been submitted for publication and seventeen are in-progress. This research is critical to the promotion of potatoes as part of a healthy diet which will contribute to an overall increase in consumption.

CROP PROTECTION IN POTATOES

The CPC had, in previous years, responded to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Proposed Re-evaluation Decision consultations that proposed the cancellation of many products that would negatively impact potato growers in Canada. Many products were proposed to be cancelled on potatoes, but after public consultation and submissions by all stakeholders, including the CPC, some positive outcomes were communicated in Final Re-evaluation Decisions that allowed continued use on potatoes with risk mitigation measures implemented: lambda-cyhalothrin (Matador/Silencer Insecticide); cymoxanil (Curzate/Tanos Fungicide); cyromazine (Governor Insecticide) and dimethomorph (Acrobat/Zampros).

PMRA unexpectedly announced a Special Review of chlorothalonil (Bravo/Echo) fungicide based on risks to human health and the environment. CPC conducted a grower survey of use that resulted in excellent grower response with 186 farms completing

the survey that represented approximately 30% of the Canadian potato acreage. A CPC response to the public consultation was submitted in May 2022. The information submitted is critical for the PMRA to refine their risk assessments that in the absence of data rely on extremely conservative inputs, and the CPC thanks all growers that participated in the survey!

CPC, along with FVGC, successfully advocated for growers at PMRA to resolve with the registrant a regulatory issue associated with linuron (Lorox L Herbicide), allowing product registration and availability for the 2022 use season.

The CPC hosted a webinar on Impact, Biology and Management of Bacterial Ring Rot presented by Dr. Ron Howard and Dr. Mike Harding in March 2021 with 127 attendees. The webinar emphasized sanitization within the context of developing an on-farm biosecurity program for this and other significant disease threats on potato farms.



LOOKING FORWARD

Public consultations on industry activities including Potato Grade Standards and Seed Potato Regulatory Modernization will be upcoming in the remainder of 2022 and into 2023.

As Cluster3 concludes at the end of March 2023, Knowledge Transfer activities will shift to project summary and the output of comprehensive materials for growers that will communicate results achieved over the last five years through grower funded research.

The CPC is excited to move forward with an application in January 2023 for the next funding cycle for research over the period 2023-2028. Unlike previous research Clusters that focussed on pest management and variety development/evaluation, the new research priorities continue to include variety development/evaluation, but also target soil health & sustainability; greenhouse gas emissions & environmental performance; and irrigation management.

- David Jones, Manager Potato Industry Coordination
- Bill Zylmans, CPC Chairman



The Potato Sustainability Alliance held its first-ever symposium in July at Boise,

Idaho, at the beautiful Simplot headquarters. It was a full slate of meetings for three days. Manager, John Mesko wanted these meetings to be efficient and productive, and I believe he achieved both. The meetings were well attended and the PSA group approved to use the "Cool Farm Tool" as an enabler for PSA members and farmers who are responding to specific customer requests for energy and carbon data. Greenhouse gases and the need to reduce them are never going away and we will have to find ways on the farms to achieve this. At the same time, the methods of going about this cannot just be put on the shoulders of the farmers, and in ways cost them money and yield. Working with the whole industry, we must find solutions to make it a win-win for all.

PSA is now going to focus on the next big issue, that being water. A committee has been formed, and they will be looking into water management. Also, the PSA survey, our Sustainable Outcomes in Agriculture Standard and Cropwise Sustainability app pilot will begin in October.

- Greg Nakamura, PSA Cdn Board Representative



PSA Board of Directors. Greg Nakamura third from right. One of three Canadians to sit on the board.

Canadian yields were record setting in 2021

ACREAGE

The 2021 potato acreage in Canada moved up as growers and processors began to see some market optimism as the Covid-19 Pandemic began to show signs of decline. This was particularly true for Alberta, where the previous year had seen processing contract reductions at planting time.

Alberta's acreage increased by 8,770 acres (to 68,450), a big chunk of Canada's increase of 25,000 acres in 2021. Manitoba's acreage also moved up 7,000 acres to meet similar processing contract needs. Yields in the 2021 crop showed great variability across the country; above average in the east and below average in the west. Canadian yields were record setting at 329 cwt./acre, compared to 293 cwt./acre in the previous crop. Many Alberta growers were disappointed in their crop, bringing in 363 cwt./acre, about 40 hundred weight below the previous year.

PRODUCTION

Production in Canada was up 20%, potentially bringing an additional 21.3 million hundred weight to the marketplace. Canadian growers produced a record 125,431,000 hundred weight from the 2021 crop. Harvest conditions were also very good with less than 1% of the crop abandoned across the country.

MARKETS

As soon as the data was analyzed and the size of the Canadian crop realized, UPGC began having discussions on how best to find markets for an additional 6-7,000,000 hundred weight of supply that Mother Nature had provided over what current demand seemed to require. Our dilemma was lessened by the fact that USDA NASS reported the 2021 United States potato crop coming in at 5-7,000,000 hundred weight less than average, due to both acreage reductions and weather conditions. Complicating the situation was the closure of the

United States Border on November 22, 2021, to all potatoes moving from PEI, after potato wart was found in a field destined to produce French Fries for the local processing plant. With that market closed, many of those potatoes had to be destroyed and other growing regions worked to fill the void. Transportation became a major cost as potatoes were shipped across the country from east to west, south of the country to supply the state of Maine and west into the Columbia Basin to replace a shortage in Washington. In years like this, supply data, and the ability to communicate it between areas who need potatoes and regions who have additional supply, is critical to the profitability of growers.

EVENTS

As restrictions relaxed, United Potato Growers of Canada began to move back to more in-person events, including the Potato Business Summit and the Crop Transition Conference in conjunction with our partners, United Potato Growers of America and PMANA.

After Kevin Maclsaac, the previous General Manager of UPGC for 11 years, announced he would like to retire, the Board of Directors spent considerable time to find a suitable replacement to keep the organization strong and progressively moving forward. Chairman, Ray Keenan, announced the hiring of Victoria Stamper, from Mascouche, Quebec, as the new General Manager of UPGC. Victoria began work on April 25, 2022, and Kevin departed in July, providing good continuity to the succession process.

Victoria looks forward to meeting all of the Potato Growers of Alberta, as well as working with board directors, Terence Hochstein, and Mike Wind.

Thank you for continuing to support United Potato Growers of Canada!

- Submitted by Kevin Maclsaac, former UPGC General Manager

LAST YEAR

AT A GLANCE



SEED



13,260
ACRES
PLANTED



236
VARIETIES

TABLE



5,390
ACRES
PLANTED

Table or fresh market potatoes are grown for the retail and farm gate consumer. Many are sold through farmers markets as well.



57 TABLE
GROWERS

54 PACKER/
DEALERS

14 GREENHOUSE
GROWERS



Seed in Alberta starts in the lab and greenhouse, where producers grow generations of potato seed that are later sold to seed growers who plant in-field for further growing and selling for different markets. Rigorous testing through CFIA occurs for each crop.



55 SEED
GROWERS



Alberta seed producers are regulated under the Canadian Seeds Act and are inspected and certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Canada's strict national program ensures only seed potatoes meeting the requirements receive certification and are marketed domestically and internationally.



Work hard in silence... let success make the noise.

PROCESS



49,500
ACRES
PLANTED

63 PROCESS GROWERS

These producers are growing commercial potatoes for processing. They are shipped to either the French fry or potato chip plants in southern Alberta.

2021 PRODUCTION SURPASSED



3 French Fry Plants



2 Potato Chip Plants



TOTAL ACRES PER SECTOR

SECTOR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	5/YR INCREASE
Fry	33370	34150	38640	35965	43000	29%
Chip	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	0%
Fresh	4195	4765	4065	5285	5390	28%
Seed	9530	10230	12035	11925	13260	39%
Totals	53595	55645	61240	59675	68150	

ANNUAL GENERAL

BUSINESS MEETING



**2021 PGA AGM Business Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021, 1:00 pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom**



MEETING CHAIRMAN - RUSS VAN BOOM, PGA BOARD

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Russ Van Boom, PGA Board Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Russ Van Boom welcomed the following special guests to the meeting:

- **Brent McEwan – Marketing Council, General Manager**
- **Julie Stitt – Marketing Council, Director**
- **Calvin Scott CPA, CA – Avail, CPA**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the 2021 PGA AGM Business Meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2020 AGM – NOVEMBER 18TH, 2020 PGA AGM BUSINESS MEETING

*MOTION: To approve minutes from the 2020 PGA AGM Business Meeting J. Hoogland / K. Bakker.
Carried.*

PGA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – RUSS VAN BOOM, PGA BOARD CHAIRMAN

Russ Van Boom presented the 2021 Chairman's Report. He stated how 2021 was a year that we were still forced to do things outside the parameters of what we would consider normal. However, issues tackled by the PGA this year were still a mix of the familiar and topics we have never had to face before. Russ highlighted how one of the main focuses of the PGA remains, continued interaction with various levels of government to advocate on behalf of our growers. In 2021, some of these topics included protecting the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, improving the effectiveness of Business Risk Management programs, and addressing issues with the new M.E.L.T. drivers training program. Russ also addressed some of the challenges facing the potato industry in Alberta. Just as we close a chapter in our history with the deregulation of PCN, we now see issues flaring up in Eastern Canada with border closures and we are reminded to proceed with caution and remain vigilant. Russ expressed appreciation for the PGA's solid financial position and responsible handling of grower's funds. As the PGA looks to the construction of a new office building in Taber, we are replacing the old with the new and looking towards a sustainable future. Russ thanked the PGA staff for keeping the ball rolling and the growers and industry partners for another great year.

CONTINUED ADVOCATION

- PROTECTING TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM
- IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
- ADDRESSING ISSUES WITH M.E.L.T

“growers are in it for the long haul; growing the best seed, fresh and processing potatoes our industry has to offer”

2020-21 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CALVIN SCOTT, AVAIL CPA

Calvin Scott presented the Auditors Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Calvin stated that the financial position of the Potato Growers of Alberta remains healthy. Calvin reviewed the financial statements and showed how COVID continued to influence some of the accounts and how increased funds held for research purposes have affected the statements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – TERENCE HOCHSTEIN, PGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Terence welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated how last year we thought our virtual meeting would be a one-off situation and, once again, we find ourselves online. He thanked the Board for their on going support and stated that growers in Alberta are in it for the long-haul; growing the best seed, fresh and processing potatoes our industry has to offer. Terence highlighted the tremendous growth we are seeing within the Alberta industry and how demand remains great for our product. He thanked the membership for the decision to move forward with the building of our new office in Taber. He also

thanked the Board of Directors for their service with special mention of Russ Van Boom for his incredible six years in service and congratulated Tony Kirkland and JP Claassen for their respective appointments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions put forward by the membership.

ELECTIONS

JP Claassen was elected for his second term as Director-At-Large by acclamation.

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR THE 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

MOTION: To retain the services of Avail as the auditor for the Potato Growers of Alberta for the 2021- 2022 fiscal year. B. Chedzoy / A. Woodman. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Russ Van Boom thanked the membership for attending the virtual meeting and adjourned.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of
Potato Growers of Alberta

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Potato Growers of Alberta, which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at July 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements, continued*

- ♦ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ♦ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- ♦ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ♦ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ♦ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Lethbridge, Alberta

October 25, 2022



Chartered Professional Accountants

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

POTATO GROWERS OF ALBERTA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at July 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 2,716,060	\$ 1,218,480
Short-term investments (note 3)	260,000	1,805,000
Accounts receivable	298,189	210,041
GST receivable	19,156	-
Interest receivable	27,923	80,241
Inventory	15,084	18,338
Prepaid expenses	53,722	46,709
Funds held on behalf of others (note 9)	1,326,382	1,074,335
Current portion of crop advances receivable	770,437	1,155,267
	5,486,953	5,608,411
Crop advances receivable (note 4)	2,033,500	1,800,000
Long-term investments (note 5)	525,000	510,000
Investment in Alberta Seed Potatoes Inc. (note 6)	8,000	8,000
Capital assets (note 7)	977,308	319,099
	\$ 9,030,761	\$ 8,245,510
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 401,444	\$ 131,459
GST payable	-	1,042
Payroll remittances payable	218	217
Deferred contributions (note 8)	364,132	263,393
Funds held on behalf of others (note 9)	1,326,382	1,074,335
Current portion of loans for crop advances	770,437	1,155,267
	2,862,613	2,625,713
Loans for crop advances (note 10)	2,033,500	1,800,000
	4,896,113	4,425,713
Commitments (note 15)		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	74,718	208,037
Internally restricted	3,082,622	3,292,660
Invested in capital assets	977,308	319,100
	4,134,648	3,819,797
	\$ 9,030,761	\$ 8,245,510

Approved on behalf of the board:

Director 

Director 

POTATO GROWERS OF ALBERTA
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended July 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Levies and licenses	\$ 1,557,784	\$ 1,462,631
Grants and recoveries	398,919	223,735
Advance Payment Program interest	61,102	52,228
Interest	47,226	67,940
Registrations and sponsorship	41,991	32,454
	2,107,022	1,838,988
Expenses		
Wages and benefits	581,083	706,194
Research and industry development	457,021	242,275
Memberships	112,729	104,321
Office and administration	97,592	58,108
Seed growers expenses	79,994	72,789
Advance Payment Program interest	58,775	50,354
Advertising and promotion	33,649	41,410
Meetings and travel	31,604	23,519
Telephone and utilities	31,050	33,233
Negotiation costs	21,658	24,317
Extension and grower education	18,935	17,537
Rent	18,319	-
Insurance	18,120	15,937
Professional fees	17,878	23,318
Potato industry meetings	16,091	2,173
Donations	15,793	12,030
Property costs	13,125	18,639
Automotive	11,862	14,968
Annual general meeting	7,642	9,026
Bad debts	1,125	100
Amortization	25,909	44,285
	1,669,954	1,514,533
Excess of revenue over expenses from operations	437,068	324,455
Other expense		
Loss on disposal of capital assets	122,217	-
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 314,851	\$ 324,455

PGA TEAM

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

CINDY FLETCHER
FINANCIALS/OFFICE
MANAGER



Financials
HR/Office Manager
Advance Payment Program
Partners Program for AGM
Storage reports for Alberta Ag
Report engine management

STACEY BAJEMA
SEED COORDINATOR



CFIA Liason
PHT Program
Government Liason
Seed Research Advisor
Seed Regulation and Policy
Seed Industry Communications

THOMAS MCDADE
AGRICULTURAL DIRECTOR



CAP Funding
Research Committee
CanadaGAP Program
New Grower Programs
Environmental Farm Plan
Weather Stations Management

DEB BREWIN
COMMUNICATIONS/
PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR



Education & Public Trust
Social Media Management
Promotions & Advertising
Print & Digital Media Design
PGA Website management
Newsletters & Communications

JUANITA STANGE
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT



Reception
Events Coordinator
Administrative Duties
A/R, A/P, APP Assistant
Assist Executive Director
Organize & Schedule Meetings



AREA MEETINGS



BURGERS & BEANS



GOLF TOURNAMENT



PGA BUILDING PHOTOS (April 20/22 -October 30/22)





Thank you to all of our committee members for the time and commitment you graciously give to help the Alberta Potato Industry thrive and succeed in greatness locally, nationally and internationally!

THANK YOU



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WORKING & GROWING TOGETHER

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