



# Canadian Seed Trade Association Update on Priority Issues

## for Commercial Seed Analysts Association of Canada

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**Strategic Stakeholder Relations**

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132 member companies

- Cross all crop kinds, in all regions of Canada
- Include all production systems (organic, conventional and biotechnology)
- 53% of members have average gross retail sales of less than \$7 million
- One member = One vote

**Mission: To Foster Seed Industry Innovation and Trade**

## Key Strategic Goals

1. **Open Trade** - *Unrestricted domestic and international trade of seed*
2. **Increased investment in innovation** - *Canada is seen as a favourable country for investment. Members receive an acceptable return on investment for all crop types*
3. **Industry-wide voice** – *a leader and facilitator for the seed sector in Canada*
4. **Efficient Regulatory System** - *An efficient/flexible, science based regulatory system that fosters innovation.*

## Immediate Priorities

- ***Plant Breeders' Rights***

- Proposed amendments to conform to UPOV 1991 – contained in Bill C-18, Agricultural Growth Act
- CSTA facilitates Partners in Innovation
  - a coalition that represents the vast majority of farmers; value chains and industry across crop kinds and across Canada
  - organized to show support proposed amendments and present factual information

# Partners in Innovation



Alberta Barley Commission



Atlantic Grains Council



B.C. Grain Producers Association

Canadian Horticultural Council



Canadian Ornamental Horticulture Alliance



Cereals Canada



Cereals Canada



Grain Farmers of Ontario



Manitoba Pulse Growers Association



The Prairie Oat Grower Association



Alberta Wheat Commission



Barley Council of Canada



Canadian Federation of Agriculture



Canadian Potato Council



Canadian Seed Trade Association



Fédération des producteurs commerciales de cultures du Québec



Grain Growers of Canada



Mustard 21 Canada Inc.



Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association

## Immediate Priorities

### *Alternate Service Delivery*

- Privatization of 80% of field crop inspection for seed certification.
- Objective to ensure our members' interests and needs are met

### *Seed Treatments and Pollinator Health*

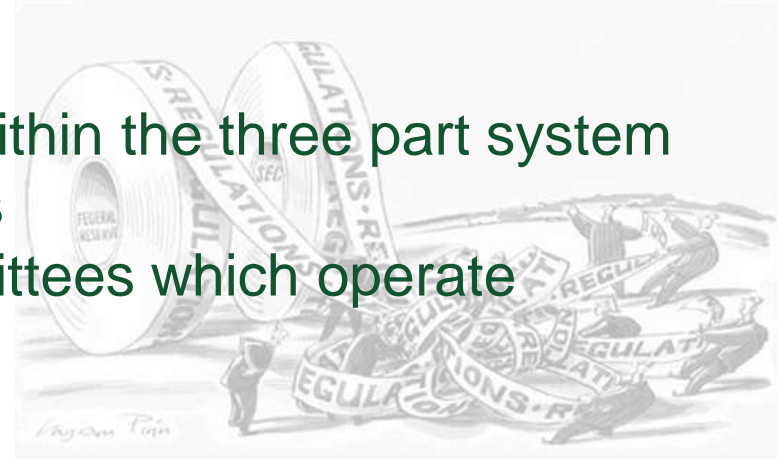
- Bee health is complex: varroa mite, nutrition, winter kill.
- Ongoing PMRA consultation re Neonicotinoids
- Positives!
  - CSTA has facilitated a value chain coalition on seed applied insecticides and pollinator health.
  - CSTA/ Croplife Best Management Practices widely distributed to farmers ([www.cdnseed.org](http://www.cdnseed.org) )
  - Supportive of Bee health working group /roundtable.
  - Bayer fluency agent this year (less dust) & BMPs recommend farmers speak to their equipment dealers re deflector kits



## Immediate Priorities

- ***Variety Registration***

- Placement of crop kinds within the three part system with different requirements
- 17 Recommending Committees which operate regionally



## CSTA Policy on Variety Registration

**Overall Objective:** Canada's Variety Registration System must not impede innovation and the ability of the seed sector to introduce new choices for farmers.

# Government Consultation on Variety Registration

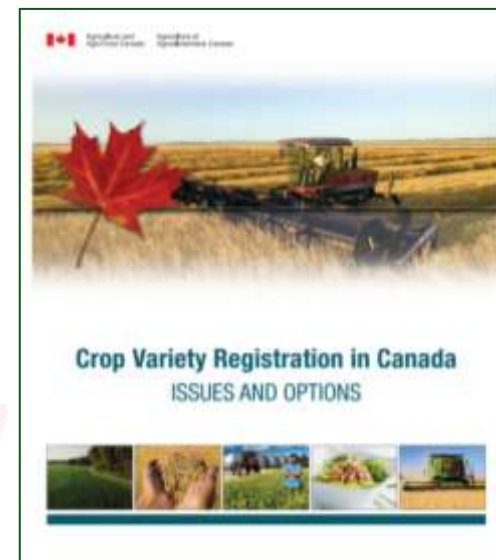
Launched in August & completed November 30, 2013

Emphasis on:

- competitiveness and market development.
- Reduce regulatory burden
- Promote research and innovation

- CSTA submitted comments – proposed option for flexibility and predictability.

- Updated policy from CSTA's semi-annual meeting on [www.cdnseed.org](http://www.cdnseed.org) website in Library section.





## Immediate Priorities

- ***Coexistence Planning***
  - To ensure that our members and their farmer customers continue to be able to choose the production system that best suits their businesses (organic, conventional, GM)
- ***Generating Funds for Investment***
  - Technology value system – in development by a value chain work group
  - Facilitated by CSTA



CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DUE COMMERCE DES SEMENCES

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