

## **CSTA Member Questions & Answers – Seeds Canada**

The questions below are specific for CSTA members and are based on questions that CSTA's Board of Directors have asked in meetings on the ratification package. For the detailed FAQ's, please click [here](#). We hope these answers are helpful to you, our members!

### **How do I vote?**

- The Key Contacts of each member company will be sent the voting information in advance. Members will have the option to vote by mail-in ballot or online.
- The ratification vote will not take place at the Annual Meeting, but there will be a 90-minute discussion on the amalgamation.
- Members will have until **August 20, 2020** to return their ballots. Members can wait until after the Annual Meeting discussion to vote.

### **How can I provide feedback to CSTA?**

- There will be many opportunities to ask questions and have your voice heard. Please contact us anytime by email at [info@seedinnovation.ca](mailto:info@seedinnovation.ca); or phone at 613-829-9527.
- There will be several [webinars](#) for all members of the amalgamating organizations.
- CSTA's Interim Executive Director, Tyler McCann, will also host member-only Zoom meetings to discuss the project in a smaller group setting. Dates and invitations will be sent in Trade Winds, please contact us for more information.
- The second half of the Annual Meeting will be focused on discussing the Seed Synergy Collaboration Project. Please contact us, questions submitted in advance of the meeting will be used to inform the discussion.

### **What happens to my CSTA membership? Will there be any new costs that CSTA members have to bear?**

- Your current CSTA membership will be grandfathered into Seeds Canada. Initial membership fees for Seeds Canada will be the combined total of the fees you pay to the amalgamating partners.
- Within two years, the Seeds Canada Board of Directors will finalize the new Seeds Canada fee structure.

### **Finances: What sort of financial liabilities are there and how do we ensure accountability? How accurate are the numbers in the financial projections?**

- The Business Case included in the Ratification Package includes a Pro-forma overview of Seeds Canada financial position. The information included in the financial overview was submitted by the amalgamating partners.
- The fundamental financial position of Seeds Canada will be strong. Membership dues and service fees will ensure it has the revenues to be in a viable financial position.



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- Projections included in the Business Case are based on business as usual operations. The Seeds Canada Board of Directors and Senior Management will look to opportunities to further strengthen Seeds Canada financial position.

### **How will Seeds Canada be governed? Is there a balance between representatives of trade, growers, and others?**

- The governance design is focused on bringing together industry leaders that will govern for the best interest of the entire seed industry.
- The board includes dedicated seats for the different links in the value chain and regionally based seats.
- The initial Board is diverse and represents all aspects of the seed industry and a variety of crop kinds. Everyone on the board has a variety of skills and has worked in many aspects of the sector.
- Going forward it will be in the hands of Seeds Canada members to elect a diverse Board that represents the entire sector.

### **What happens to CSTA Committees?**

- All services currently offered by all organizations will continue, and committees are a crucial member service.
- The Seed Synergy White Paper was driven by the policy development process and the important member-led process for policy development will remain.
- The ratification package highlights the commitment made to continuing on the existing work of the amalgamating partners inside Seeds Canada. This includes the important policy development done by CSTA's committees.
- The Seeds Canada Board will be responsible for determining how exactly that work will be done inside the new organization.

### **What percentage is needed for a favorable vote?**

- Two thirds (2/3) of the CSTA membership needs to vote in favour of the amalgamation, so 67%.

### **What happens if one organization votes no? How does this impact the structure of the Seeds Canada?**

- All partners are required to hold a vote prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- If a partner votes no at any time it would require a reevaluation of the process and a determination of next steps.
- If one organization votes no, the Amalgamation Agreement allows them to hold a second vote, provided that they have the agreement of the other amalgamating groups. If a second vote is agreed to, the second vote must be completed by December 15, 2020. It's not guaranteed but is something that could be considered if the vote is very close.
- We are committed to a February 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Partners will take all necessary action to ensure this.



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**Has CSTA's Board voted in favour of approving the ratification package already?**

- CSTA's Board has voted to distribute the ratification package to members. The Board has voted on the process, not on the amalgamation itself.
- While the CSTA Board has continuously supported moving forward with the creation of Seeds Canada, it is up to the CSTA membership to vote for or against amalgamation.