



CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU COMMERCE DES SEMENCES

39 Robertson Road., Suite 505, Ottawa, Ontario K2H 8R2

Email: csta@cdnseed.org

<http://www.cdnseed.org>

Telephone (613) 829-9527

FAX (613)829-3530

CSTA Western Researchers Meeting
February 8, 2010
Ballroom South, Hilton Garden Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Researchers#4

Update from the Board of Directors

- Strategic Planning** - the Board of Directors completed a two day governance and strategic planning session at the end of January.
 - New Mission Statement** – The board developed a new, more concise and direct mission statement for the Association: “To foster seed industry innovation and trade”.
 - Core Values Unchanged** – CSTA’s 10 core operating values were reviewed and the Board determined that they were still valid. They can be found on the CSTA website at http://www.cdnseed.org/about_us/core_values.asp
 - New Committee Handbook** – a new handbook outlining roles and responsibilities of committee leadership and procedures for CSTA committee meetings, was approved by the Board of Directors. It can be found in the members only section of the CSTA website.
 - Revised Operational Guidelines** – outlining CSTA’s operational procedures, and including descriptions of roles and responsibilities of CSTA Executive Committee; Board of Directors and staff will be posted soon in the members only section of the website.
 - Strategic Plan** – The Board spent a full day assessing the current and future environments in which the seed industry will operate, and establishing key goals for CSTA and success measures to reach those goals. One of the key areas identified is improving market access, and the main component of that is to develop, advocate, and contribute to the achievement of an international policy on the low level presence of products of biotechnology. While CSTA has been very active for many years on this issue, efforts will be stepped up both nationally and internationally. Other areas of focus are attracting HR talent to the seed industry; increasing investment in innovation; keeping Canadian regulations science based and improving the communication and cooperation along the value chain. The complete strategic plan will be reviewed by the Board, and once confirmed, will be posted in the members only section of the CSTA website.
 - Revised Policy Manual** – CSTA’s policy manual is updated annually to incorporate resolutions and position and policy statements and policies. The Board approved the revisions and the manual will soon be posted in the members only section of the CSTA website.
- C-474** – As outlined in a document for this meeting, CSTA is very active on its own and with a broader coalition to defeat Bill C-474 – a Private Members Bill that would amend the Seeds Regulations to require an export market assessment of all new GM varieties before they can be commercialized. CSTA staff have developed speaking notes for MPs and have developed the communication to MPs for the coalition. A coalition meeting has been requested with the Minister of Agriculture and MP meetings will be held when Parliament is back in session.

3. **Weed Seeds Order** – CSTA facilitated a conference call meeting between a number of member representatives and the CFIA around proposed changes to the Weed Seeds Order. With the input of members, CSTA drafted a submission to CFIA as part of its consultations on the proposals. CSTA's detailed submission can be found at <http://www.cdnseed.org/pdfs/Presentations2010/CFIAWeedSeedsOrderJan10.pdf> Many members also sent in submissions.
4. **Plant Breeders' Rights** – CSTA staff met with the Executive Director of the Plant Products Division and staff of the Plant Breeders' Rights Office to discuss a number of PBR related issues including:
 - CSTA's policy that calls for crop certificates only to be issued to applicants who have the right to varieties.
 - Bringing PBR legislation into compliance with UPOV 1991. The positioning of the government of Canada on changes to PBR legislation, and various provisions of UPOV 1991, such as recognizing the legitimate rights of the breeder; essential derivation; products of harvested material; enforcement etc. Also a discussion of how to make improved intellectual property protection a part of Canada's free trade negotiations with the European Union.
5. **ISF 2010** – the website for the World Seed Congress 2010 in Calgary went live on January 4. CSTA is hosting this international convention from May 31 to June 2. Information on the program and tours; and the ability to register for the convention and at meeting hotels is all on the website www.worldseed2010.com