



## Frequently Asked Questions: Manitoba Canola Growers Association

### 1. How important are Human Resources to Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA)?

MCGA invests 16% of the budget to staff salaries, benefits, and pension plan contributions. Many of the staff work from home offices to maximize work hours, office rental spaces and operational expenses. MCGA is very fortunate to be able to count on long-standing employees. The staff turnover rate is 0% over the last five years.

### 2. In 2015/16 how many dollars were spent on director per diems?

\$65,000. MCGA director's estimate they spent a minimum of 216.67 days or 1733.36 hours on MCGA related committee and board work. In addition to what is reported in Appendix A, there are hours spent on other committees like CCGA and CCC. See Appendix A for a detailed break down of director per diems. This represents 2.4% of MCGA's overall budget. Please note that Ron Krahn and Bill Nicholson became Directors on Feb 11, 2016 after the AGM.

### 3. What industry partnerships are MCGA directors working on with members' best interests in mind?

**Keystone Agricultural Producers:** Participate in the review of the Canadian Transportation Act, Growing Forward 2 review, Farm Safety, Business Risk Management, farmland taxes (reduction or removal of education tax), the minimizing the impact of the proposed Carbon Tax.

**Canadian Canola Growers Association:** Work on transportation, public trust, environment and sustainability, biotechnology, marketing and international trade, and safety nets.

**Provincial and Federal Agriculture and Trade Ministries:** Provide letters of support on the Trans Pacific Partnership and other issues important to canola trade.

**Provincial Ag Risk Management Task Force:** Provide input.

**Canola Council of Canada:** Provide a sustainable and reliable supply of canola, a stable and open trade, agronomic and health research, develop markets worldwide, and support the Government in trade disputes.

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency:** Partner in the *Verticillium Longsporium* advisory group, which provides direction on how to manage the disease. The disease was found throughout Canada, will not be put under the pest act and more research is needed on this disease.

**Provincial Agricultural Minister:** Participate in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial consultation and provide input to the Minister on canola issues and issues affecting farmers in general.

**Farm Safety:** Partner of the education and awareness of Provincial Farm Safety Initiatives.

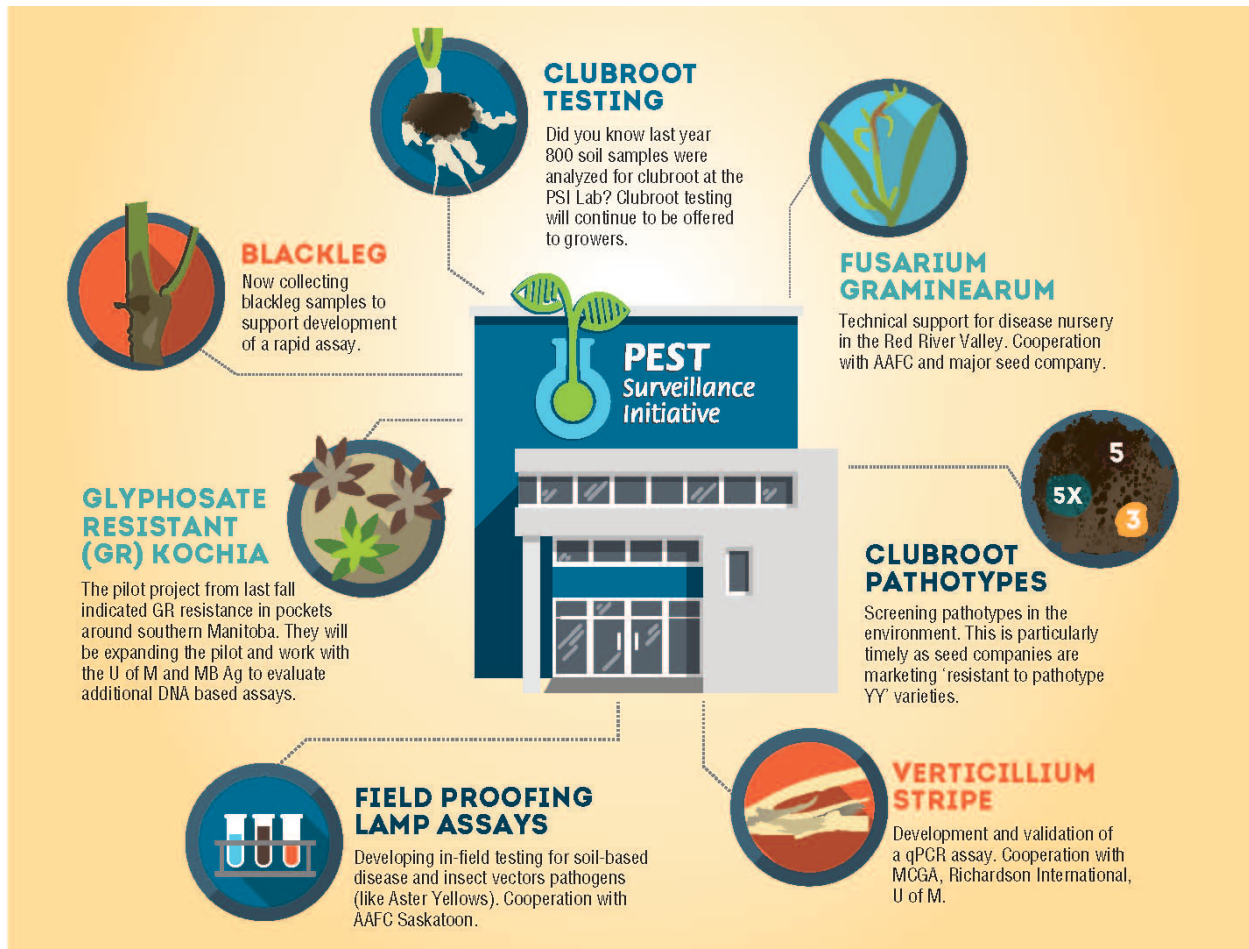
**Manitoba Government, Manitoba Agri-Health Research Network (MAHRM):** Invest in the Pest Surveillance Lab and partner with MAHRM on cold pressed artisan canola oil.

**Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba:** Partner and participate in the AITC-M initiatives.



#### 4. What does the Pest Surveillance Initiative (PSI Lab) do for Manitoba Farmers?

The PSI Lab is a “molecular detection” laboratory (funded by MCGA) that works to track clubroot and other soil-borne diseases. It was covered in the ‘Research’ video showcased at the 2017 AGM. See image below for more details.



#### 5. What happened when the five commodity groups got together to see how we could work together?

Mission statement: “*The Manitoba Canola, Corn, Pulse & Soybean, Sunflower, and Wheat and Barley Associations have agreed to participate in a series of discussions throughout 2016. Regular meetings between staff, leadership, and governance bodies across these organizations will be scheduled with the objective of discovering how they can work more effectively to maximize member value. The intent is to build upon the existing collaborative relationships such as CropConnect, shared office space, and administration.*”

The Executive Directors of each organization meet monthly to look at what programs or operations could be done together or with one or two of the organizations. At the last meeting



Flax, Winter Cereals, and Oats were part of the discussion. Some groups are in favor of looking at a merger, while some are looking at what programs or operations can be done together.

#### **6. What were the results of the 2016 telephone survey?**

MCGA conducted a telephone survey in the fall of 2016. Twenty farmers (MCGA members and non-members) from across Manitoba were contacted for their input and 17 participated.

#### **The top four issues that were brought up were:**

1. Disease pressure from blackleg and sclerotinia
2. Addressing concerns from the public through advocacy efforts need to continue
3. Carbon tax strategies that are advocating for members
4. Addressing concerns about increasing land taxes

**Action:** MCGA is responding to all four of these issues and will continue to advocate on behalf of our members.

#### **Participants were asked how they like to receive communications from MCGA and they indicated:**

- Electronic newsletters
- Twitter conversations
- RealAgriculture communications – newsletters and satellite radio
- Targeted connections with professionals

**Action:** MCGA needs to be able to contact all members electronically.

#### **When asked specifically about the negotiations that have been ongoing regarding Market Access, participants indicated:**

- Overall communication regarding the China dockage issue was well covered. Perhaps it was a bit overblown in the media but ultimately handled well by the industry. Some concerns about mixed messaging regarding dockage. As explanation, farmers sell their canola to the elevator at 1% dockage and then it is cleaned, so the dockage should be less. Why then is dockage added back into the sample that is then shipped overseas raising concerns about higher dockage levels with our customers?
- The issues that costs in the system that are negotiated regarding Market Access are ultimately moved through the value chain back to the farmer and they then have no way of recouping those additional costs. If it is a value chain then should not all participants of the chain carry a portion of the negotiated costs?

**Action:** MCGA needs to continue to bring the Farm Voice forward when trade negotiations are being discussed.



**Appendix A: Manitoba Canola Growers Association Director Per Diems**

	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Bill Nicholson (joined Feb 2016)</b>		
Dollars (\$)		\$2,550
Days on MCGA business		8.5
<b>Brian Chorney</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$12,300	\$9,450
Days on MCGA business	41	31.5
<b>Clayton Harder</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$7,200	\$3,150
Days on MCGA business	24	10.5
<b>Dale Gryba (retired Feb 2016)</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$1,750	\$4,350
Days on MCGA business	5.8	14.5
<b>Ed Rempel</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$9,375	\$9,000
Days on MCGA business	31.2	30
<b>Hugh Drake (retired Feb 2016)</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$5,700	\$6,900
Days on MCGA business	19	23
<b>Jack Froese</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$8,250	\$7,500
Days on MCGA business	27.3	25
<b>Charles Fossay</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$13,975	\$15,350
Days on MCGA business	46.5	51.17
<b>Larry Bohdanovich (retired June 2016)</b>		
Dollars (\$)	\$3,600	\$3,900
Days on MCGA business	12	13
<b>Ron Krahn (joined Feb 2016)</b>		
Dollars (\$)		\$2,850
Days on MCGA business		9.5