



# TheWheatField

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2017 EDITION

## Prairie wheat commissions form the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat), the Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC), and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association (MWBGA) announced the formation of the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) in August. The CWRC is a federal not-for-profit corporation that will facilitate long-term investments aimed at improving profitability and competitiveness for western Canadian wheat farmers.

The CWRC will facilitate a collaborative approach to producer funding of regional and national research projects in variety development and agronomy including the next Canadian National Wheat Cluster and core wheat breeding agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and universities. Additional regional projects that align with variety development and agronomic priorities will also be considered for funding through the CWRC.

"Most of the best performing wheat varieties available to farmers are the result of producer-funded wheat breeding efforts," said Kevin Auch, AWC chair and CWRC director. "I look forward to working with my provincial counterparts to continue this work with the goal of seeing new, high performing varieties that result in better returns and increased competitiveness for farmers."

The three wheat commissions will serve as founding members on the farmer-led board of directors. The structure allows for additional producer or private sector groups that share an interest in advancing wheat research in Canada to join as organizational members. This inclusive arrangement provides a platform for the CWRC to pursue new public, private, producer partnerships (4Ps).

The formation of the CWRC directly follows the commissions' increased responsibility in funding core wheat breeding agreements and the national wheat cluster, coinciding with the end of the Western Canadian Deduction (WCD) on July 31, 2017. Under the previous structure, the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) led these research initiatives through WCD funding.

In preparation for the end of the WCD, the commissions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining their agreement to partner in setting variety development priorities and funding commitments that meet the needs of wheat farmers in Western Canada. As a result of the MOU, the commissions will ensure continuity in new spring wheat variety development is maintained through the CWRC, and will continue to engage WGRF as a key player through this transition. Project funding will be shared on a proportionate basis by commissions based on check-off revenue.

"With the end of the WCD, we look forward to working with our fellow wheat commissions in taking on increased responsibility related to variety development," said Cale Jeffries, MWBGA director and CWRC director.

The CWRC will be administered by a host commission, which will rotate every three years, starting with Sask Wheat.

### Sign up for Grade School in Rosetown or North Battleford

SaskCanola, SaskBarley, and Sask Wheat present Grade School 2017. Learn more about degrading factors in wheat, barley and canola.

Representatives from the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) will provide grading demonstrations for producers and discuss degrading factors and proper sampling techniques. Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi) technical staff will demonstrate the impacts of degrading factors on end product quality for wheat and explain the quality requirements for Canadian wheat around the world.

Sign up soon! Space is limited to 30 participants in each location.

#### Rosetown - Tuesday, November 28

Rosetown and District Civic Centre

#### North Battleford - Wednesday, November 29

Dekker Centre

Registration at 9:00 a.m.

Program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Register at [saskwheatcommission.com](http://saskwheatcommission.com)



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## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

# Collaborative research bringing benefits to Prairie farmers



Harvest 2017 is turning out to be more bountiful than most farmers expected given the widespread drought that Saskatchewan experienced during the growing season. While harvest continues and we do yet not have a full determination of production, it appears that farmers may pull off average to above average yields for wheat. In addition, the hot and dry conditions of summer 2017 and the harvest period were not conducive to major crop diseases, particularly FHB, so quality is expected to be higher than average.

Not all farmers escaped the growing season without issues, as yields were not uniformly distributed. Clearly though, while we had fully charged soil moisture at the start of the growing season and

agronomic practices have improved, this result also speaks to the improved genetics that farmers now have access to, relative to the drought periods of the 1980s. This provides an opportunity to review the importance of a sustained and maintained research and varietal development program on behalf of producers.

The pressures to streamline and focus efforts on research and varietal development activities were foundational to the decision of Sask Wheat to partner with the Alberta Wheat Commission and the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association to form the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC). This newly formed coalition will work to synchronise efforts regarding regional wheat research with a long-term strategy of improving the net profitability of wheat production.

Starting this fall, with coordination and collaboration on the federal "Wheat Research Cluster", the CWRC will be the vehicle for wheat producers' participation in strategically important regional wheat research. We also expect that the CWRC will be used as the vehicle to assume future responsibility for the next round of core wheat breeding agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Prairie universities. This formalized collaboration through the CWRC is the natural continuation of the already high level of collaboration between the three wheat commissions on varietal development and research efforts.

This summer also marked a change in producer involvement in market development efforts through the assumption of direct governance of the Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi). While Cigi has recently been supported by producer check-off funds through the Western Canadian Deduction, the change to a single producer check-off by each provincial wheat commission provided an opportunity to streamline Cigi governance to include direct representation from the three wheat commissions on the Cigi Board of Directors. This relationship should provide farmers with a good understanding of the quality needs of various market segments and help direct future research and market development efforts.

In addition to interprovincial collaboration through the CWRC and Cigi, Sask Wheat has continued to participate in efforts to produce the National Wheat Research Priorities and to support research efforts through the latest intake of proposals through the Agricultural Development Fund of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Agriculture Funding Consortium in Alberta. It is this sustained collaboration and focus that will bring long term benefits to growers and hopefully enhance the resilience and profitability of wheat in future production.



### BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Gehl, Chair  
Regina

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[info@saskwheatcommission.com](mailto:info@saskwheatcommission.com)

## Notice of Sask Wheat Annual General Meeting

Saskatchewan wheat producers are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission during CropSphere and Crop Production Week in Saskatoon.

**Event Details:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018 • 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Gallery D • TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK

The AGM will be followed by a Wheat Producers' Forum from 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Please note:** if you are attending the AGM and are not registered for CropSphere, please stop at the conference registration desk on your way in to pick up your AGM ONLY attendance pass.

### For more information, contact:

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission  
T: 306-653-7932 • E: [info@saskwheatcommission.com](mailto:info@saskwheatcommission.com)

# Sask Wheat Director Elections – October 24 to November 24

Four positions on the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Board of Directors will be contested in the 2017 Director election. Please vote and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same!

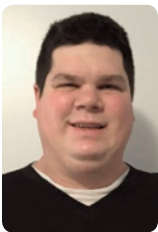
## ELECTION INFORMATION:

- The election will take place between October 24 and November 24
- Ballots will be sent to all registered wheat producers in October. Please look for the yellow Sask Wheat envelope in your mail (example pictured to the right)
- Producers will have the option to vote electronically or via a mail-in paper ballot. To vote electronically, go to [www.saskwheatvotes.com](http://www.saskwheatvotes.com)

- The results of the election will be announced in early December and the four successful candidates will be installed to the Board of Directors at the Sask Wheat AGM on January 9, 2018



## Candidate Profiles



### FRANSOO, Daryl

Meota, SK  
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Twitter: @DarylFransoo

**Farm Operation:** I farm with my father on our family farm near Glaslyn. We produce spring and soft white wheat as well as peas, lentils, barley and canola.

**Related Experience:** As a young grower, I have enjoyed stepping up into the farm policy world as a Director on the Board of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association. I also enjoyed a year-long APAS leadership and mentorship program. I have tried to be a vocal advocate for farmers on key issues that will drastically affect them, such as the proposed Federally-imposed carbon tax and the dramatic changes to taxes on farmers and small businesses.

### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

I believe it's a great time to modernize the SWDC – let's focus on the future now, and move onward and upward with wheat in our great province. Continued efforts on market access, a commercial and efficient grain handling and transportation system, and agricultural innovations that add value, enhance competitiveness and increase net returns to farmers are some of the top issues that we need to work on together. Leveraging public and private dollars to get the most out of our levy dollars is essential. We need all hands on deck to combat the problems we face as wheat producers. Fusarium is a massive problem hurting our bottom lines. Figuring out a solution and putting as many dollars into direct research on this is a must. I think it's time we have innovative folks deciding where our wheat levy dollars go, now and for the future. The past is the past, so let's look forward.

**Comments:** I appreciate your consideration and your support. I look forward to working with each and every wheat grower in our province. I'm eager to talk with you and to bring your priorities to the Commission board table. I'll fight for Saskatchewan farmers to have a voice at the national table. I'll ensure that we continue to have access to our most important markets, and most of all, I'll deliver results for Saskatchewan producers and our levy dollars. Please feel free to contact me by phone or on Twitter.



### GEHL, Bill

Regina, SK  
Tel: 306-537-3899  
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**Farm Operation:** I farm on a third-generation, multi-family farm, growing wheat, barley, flax, canola and pulses.

**Related Experience:** I am currently the Chair of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SWDC) and am running for re-election to continue the work that we have begun in the first four years of the SWDC. The SWDC's strong, capable Board of Directors have developed an effective Commission that places farmers' interests as the first priority. I also serve as the Chair of the Canadian Wheat Board Alliance, on the Board of Directors of the Canadian International Grains Institute and formerly served as a Director of the Western Grains Research Foundation.

### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

I strongly support:

- Allocating 80% of the farmers' levy to research. Approved research projects must measure up to strict criteria designed to maximize financial return to our producers (e.g., funding the Wheat Genome Research project and additional funding to the CDC Durum program).
- Maximizing investment in research through co-ordination with the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition and co-funding with other Commissions, Provincial and Federal Governments.
- Maintaining and enhancing public ownership of wheat varieties. "End Point Royalties" will be another cost to farmers with no producer control over how the dollars are spent.
- Continued investment in agronomy by partnering with Saskatchewan Agriculture on the Fusarium Head Blight map and supporting the expanded Saskatchewan Seed Guide.
- The Federal Government must be pressed to undertake a rail costing review and to maintain the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE). Sask Wheat can achieve this by continuing to be part of the Producer Transportation Coalition alongside Sask Barley and APAS.

*Gehl ... continued on next page*

- Allowing U.S. wheat into Canada under the Canadian Grains Act will erode the Canadian Wheat “brand” and compromise international sales. It will also negatively impact grain transportation and could jeopardize the MRE. This issue needs to be a priority for SWDC.

**Comments:** I will continue to place farmers first and I am asking for your support. I ask you to support those candidates that share my perspective. Any questions? Call or e-mail me.



### HALSTEAD, Brett

Nokomis, SK  
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**Farm Operation:** Together with my wife, Myrna, and our son and his wife, we operate a mixed farm near Nokomis. We grow wheat, barley, oats, canola, flax, peas, soybeans and raise beef cattle.

**Related Experience:** I spent eight years as a Director with SaskCanola, finishing my term in January. During my term, I was Chair for two years and for seven years I was one of SaskCanola’s representatives to the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA). I was CCGA President for three years on the Canola Council of Canada, and for seven years on the Western Standards Committee. Other board experience includes AgricoreUnited, UGG and Sask Canola Growers. My farm board experience has taught me how to listen to different points of view and work with a wide variety of people to come up with balanced solutions that work for the majority of farmers.

#### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

Wheat has a divided past, and it is now important to move forward in today’s reality and work co-operatively to find solutions for the future. We can all agree that fusarium and other diseases need attention through research, innovation and new varieties. I believe strongly in Sask Wheat’s role in producer lead research, advocacy and producer outreach. I also believe an opportunity exists, and we need more attention focused on product promotion through market development, to tell the story of the quality and benefits of our Canadian Wheat. As well, international trade issues like Maximum Residue Limits, Low Level Presence and NonTariff Trade Barriers need our support.

**Comments:** Sask Wheat is a relatively new producer lead commission. I believe I can add to the strengths and diversity of the Board through my many experiences in agriculture. I strongly believe in a producer voice and producer involvement. Without Saskatchewan farmers standing up for themselves, decisions will be made without us.

Please have your say in this election and vote for Brett Halstead. Contact me by email or follow me on Twitter @brettalstead to discuss the issues.



### LEGUEE, Jake

Weyburn, SK  
Tel: 306-861-6793  
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Twitter: @LegueeFarms

**Farm Operation:** I farm in southeast Saskatchewan, close to Weyburn, with my wife Stephanie, my sister Sarah, and my parents Russ and Sharon. We farm a variety of crops including durum, canola, spring and winter wheat, peas, lentils, soybeans and others, depending on the year. I am a third-generation farmer and hope someday my children may start a fourth.

**Related Experience:** I achieved a degree in Agriculture from the U. of S. in 2010, specializing in Agronomy. After working for a private agronomist and then an independent retail in Fillmore, I returned to

the farm. I am currently farming full-time and operating a Pioneer Hi-Bred sales agency. For the last four years I have written a blog found at [www.southsaskfarmer.com](http://www.southsaskfarmer.com), called *A Year in the Life of a Farmer*. I write about the daily challenges of farming, with the goal of connecting to a public increasingly concerned about food production. This year I will also be a participant in the Global Farmer Network.

#### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

Of all the crops that we produce, I enjoy growing wheat the most. It responds well to intensive management, and new varieties have shown amazing yield potential. I want to be involved with the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SWDC) to drive agronomic and varietal research forward, and push yield expectations far higher than they are today. At the same time, it is crucial that our reputation for quality endures, especially with hard red spring wheat and durum, and that we can move these crops to market. The transportation issues of 2013 will rise again as we grow ever more production, and is therefore an issue that deserves attention. The other critical agronomic factor for wheat, and especially durum, is fusarium resistance. This is a serious problem on our farm, which threatens our ability to produce profitable wheat and durum.

**Comments:** I am passionate about the agriculture industry, and I believe the future of wheat is very bright. I will bring positivity, enthusiasm and experience to the SWDC.



### LUHNING, Rod

Lumsden, SK  
Tel: 306-731-2889  
Email: rnluhning@sasktel.net

**Farm Operation:** With my wife, Norma, I have operated a grain farm in the Lumsden area for 40 years. We grow wheat, canola, barley, flax, and peas.

**Related Experience:** I have a B. Sc. in Biology from the U. of S., and a Master’s of Public Policy Certificate from the U. of R. I have been actively involved with governance boards. I have served as a Councillor and as the Reeve for the RM of Lumsden. I have served on regional school boards for 18 years, 15 years as Chair. I was appointed by the Saskatchewan School Board Association for two terms to the University of Regina Senate. I think the combination of farm experience, education and work on local/regional government institutions has prepared me to be an effective voice for the improvement of farmer profitability.

#### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

I will work with the Sask Wheat Commission to keep it on its course, placing farmers’ interest first. My key priorities include:

- Ensuring farmers have a voice in grain transportation policy and in maintaining the maximum revenue entitlement.
- Maintaining our international reputation for Canadian Wheat quality and brand.
- Advocating for farmer levy and input into research and varietal development. I oppose end point royalties
- Ensuring that farmers have the right to save seed.

**Comments:** I am concerned that the farmers’ voices are being lost and that there is a continued erosion of farmer influence. If farming is going to be sustainable, we need to focus on the producer. Businesses that supply the farming sector need to realize that they need a profitable farming sector if they are to be successful. I do not hold membership in any farm organization or political party. I am defined only by farm policy and action that contributes to a healthy, thriving and profitable farming sector.

I am committed to representing all wheat producers, regardless of farm size, as an effective voice on your behalf. Your vote is needed to help me to get elected.



### LUNG, Patricia

Humboldt, SK  
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Twitter: @AgGeers

**Farm Operation:** Originally from a commercial cattle farm in Northern Alberta, I now represent the fourth-generation on a commercial and seed, grain and oilseed operation north of Humboldt, SK. My husband and I, with our three children, farm just over 3200 acres in partnership with my husband's brother, under the umbrella of Lung Brothers Partnership Ltd. Our cropping rotation consists of cereals, pulses and oilseeds. My husband is a long-standing member of the CSGA and we are involved with extended family in Lung Seeds Ltd., for a total cropping representation of approximately 8500 acres.

**Related Experience:** I hold an undergrad degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alberta and a graduate degree in Agriculture and Bioresource Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan. I am a member in good standing with APEGS as well as APEGA. I have over 20 years' experience: 15 years involve project management, 11 of those were with an agriculture research organization. Demonstrating fiscal responsibility and accountability, whether to my project clients, employer, or farm operation, are high on the list of values that I bring to all my engagements.

**Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:** Wheat is a staple in the prairie province crop rotation. Unfortunately, wheat as a staple customarily comes with reduced profitability. This causes frustration for growers. There are a number of sustainable options that address profitability, such as increased studies in nutrient quantities and placement, which would offer growers more concise recommendations, and result in a net positive return. Opportunities also exist in increased research in variety development, along the agronomic and equipment interface, and in truth-testing new technologies heralded to benefit producers. Challenges moving forward will present in the social license to farm, grain transportation, consumer communication and disease management to ensure quality.

**Comments:** I am an involved producer, passionate about agriculture, community and my family. I have served two terms on the K-12 Committee with APEGS and I am currently serving my second term as the Treasurer of a Community Board.



### ROSAASEN, Ken

Saskatoon, SK  
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**Farm Operation:** My spouse, Elsie, my sons Nevin and Nels, and I farm near Preeceville where my grandfather settled in 1905. We grow conventional crops on 2000 acres, and have grown soybeans, fababeans and timothy seed.

**Related Experience:** Recently retired as U. of S. Professor of Agricultural Economics, my teaching, research and extension work focused on grain and livestock marketing and agricultural policy. Extension activities included initiation and ongoing co-ordination of *Market Prospects* on CTV *Farmgate*, and development of *Freight Rate Manager* (software) to help farmers understand grain handling/transportation costs. My career extension activities earned me the U. of S. Distinction in Outreach and Public Service Award in 2014. I served as Vice Chair, then Chair, of the Saskatchewan Natural Products Marketing Council when producers voted to establish canola and pulse check-offs. Currently, I serve as Corman Park's APAS representative.

### Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:

I am grateful to be among the first elected Directors of Sask Wheat, and proud of our accomplishments as we seek to maximize the net profitability of wheat production. I will continue to work collegially:

- For increased research capacity, improved research coordination with other provincial commissions and increased government investment in agricultural research including agronomic research. Publicly funded agricultural research, including public plant breeding, generates high rates of return. Major yield gains in wheat and durum have been achieved without the high seed costs seen for canola.
- For producers' best interests regarding preserving the 'Canada Brand' for our wheat and rights to save seed.
- For retention of the Maximum Revenue Entitlement on grain transportation, on which Sask Wheat has worked closely with APAS and Sask Barley.
- For a railway costing review (promised since 1992) to share with producers their cost savings from the closing of branch lines.
- For improved pricing transparency in prairie grain markets and a better understanding of the basis to export market positions.

**Comments:** My efforts on these and other issues will be guided by my firm belief that when farmers fund research, market development and advocacy, farmers must be the primary beneficiaries.



### SCHERMAN, Trevor

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Twitter: @growharder

**Farm Operation:** Trevor farms between Battleford and Wilkie, SK. He is a 1999 graduate from the University of Saskatchewan Vocational Agriculture Program. Trevor farms with his wife, Michelle, who has an Economics degree from the U. of S. Their children, Levi and Hayley, are also starting to help out on the farm where they can.

**Related Experience:** Trevor has worked in the agriculture industry with a couple of major companies since 2001, while continuing to build up the farm. He loves to travel and see how farming practices differ from one location to another, and how he can implement what others are doing into his own operation. He is very passionate about technology as it relates to the agriculture industry. The goal on his farm is to produce the highest rate of return from a small land base, and he enables many facets of technology and agronomy to help him reach that goal. Trevor is also the co-founder of ScherGrain Solutions Systems with his father. This started out as another step in trying to maximize equipment and land efficiencies, and evolved into a business.

**Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:** I feel we need to continue the drive forward for new and better varieties. Variety development must come from a number of sources: public, private and partnerships.

The reputation of Canadian wheat needs to be strongly promoted. We have a Canadian Wheat brand that needs to be upheld. This is best done by cooperating with national organizations such as Cereals Canada, CIGI (Canadian International Grains Institute) and the CGC (Canadian Grain Commission) on activities such as the annual New Crop Trade Missions.

In addition, the challenge of market access issues continues to hamper trade. Pesticide regulations need further work and attention.

**Comments:** I look forward to helping make changes for the good of the wheat growers in Saskatchewan.

**SEFTON, Scott**

Broadview, SK  
 Tel: 306-696-7666  
 Email: seftonscott@hotmail.com  
 Twitter: @FarmSefton

**Farm Operation:** I have been farming with my father in the Qu'Appelle Valley, north of Broadview since '97. The farm is about 4000 acres, seeded to spring wheat, winter wheat, canola, soybeans and flax.

**Related Experience:** I received my Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 2001. I was involved with the Farm Leadership Council as a Director. I also participated in the Youth Mentorship Program offered through APAS.

**Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:**

If elected, I would work towards:

- More agronomy research.
- Alternate uses for wheat and durum.
- Work with all industry sectors.
- Work with Agriculture Canada and universities on varietal development.
- Co-operation with private ag breeders with business investments.
- Lobbying governments at all levels to improve producer financial return.
- Lobbying governments for science-based regulations that impact producers' ability to compete in the marketplace.
- Getting commissions more involved in national organizations and participation in international trade missions.
- Becoming a proactive voice in getting producers' messages to the consumer.

I would like to see Saskatchewan wheat direction and policy set independent of other farm organizations.

I don't believe that the commission should be involved in past issues, but focus on the future.

**Comments:** Thank you in advance for your consideration and support, and remember to vote.

**TAIT, Glenn**

Meota, SK  
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 Email: gttait@sasktel.net

**Farm Operation:** I am a fourth generation farmer working with two other generations on the family farm at Meota, near North Battleford. Although I have served on several Boards and Councils, and

have been on farms in Scotland, Australia, Wisconsin and Texas, I have always been a full-time farmer.

**Related Experience:** I received my B.Sc. in Agriculture (Crop Science) from the U. of S. in 1985. I feel fortunate to be part of the first elected Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SWDC) and am proud of the achievements we have made in our formative years. We have an outstanding administrative and research staff at the Saskatoon office and have developed a close and effective relationship with the top wheat breeders across the prairies. We are a dedicated and effective voice for farmers. This was evidenced when we, with our transportation coalition partners, successfully lobbied to keep the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE). The next step is to demand a rail costing review.

**Outline Opportunities and Challenges for the Wheat Sector:**

I have always had a "farmer first" criterion when at the SWDC Board table. This is a very clear guide when developing policy in favour of public plant breeding, maintaining the quality and reputation of the Canadian brand, and always pushing for the maximum return to the farmer from research, marketing and grain transportation. The Canadian International Grains Institute and, the Canadian Grain Commission are currently re-inventing themselves. The SWDC is very involved in this process and I will press for policies and agendas that are best for farmers and for Canada. The next big issue on the plant breeding horizon is the possible adoption of End Point Royalties (EPRs) which increase investment but also allow profit taking by private companies. Other methods of investment are much better for us. Ultimately, the farmer pays all the bills. I will work hard to ensure the best return on investment goes back to the source: back to the farmer.

**Comments:** Questions? Comments? Call or e-mail me.

**Sask Wheat is  
proud to sponsor**



Thursday, January 25, 2018  
 Living Sky Casino  
 Swift Current, Saskatchewan  
 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canada contributes a major share to the global trade of durum wheat. The quality of Canadian durum is highly prized by domestic and international buyers. Durum production is being challenged by the devastating effects of fusarium head blight and insects such as midge. Crop rotations have changed to include more pulses and canola. Integration of the latest cropping technologies offers opportunities to reduce the environmental footprint and increase sustainability. The Durum Summit will provide updates on matching genetics to demand, responding to environmental pressures, and growing a more profitable crop.

Speakers include:

- **Dr. Curtis Pozniak**  
Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan  
*Matching Genetics to Demand*
- **Dr. Ron Knox**  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current  
*Combating FHB in Durum – Advances and Prospects*
- **Kim McConnell**  
Chair, Canadian Centre for Food Integrity  
*High Tech Ag and Building Public Trust*
- **Panel of Leading Durum Producers and Industry**  
*Meeting Consumer Expectations*

For more information, visit [www.durumsummit.com](http://www.durumsummit.com). Registrations begin November 1.

# Transportation coalition submits brief to Standing Committee on Transport

The transportation coalition of Sask Wheat, the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, and the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, submitted a brief to the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities in response to Bill C-49: *The Transportation Modernization Act*.

The Standing Committee held hearings in early September to hear from those affected by the proposed amendments to the *Canada Transportation Act*, which were introduced in the spring and are expected to be passed in the current parliamentary session.

The new legislation includes new requirements for railways to disclose data and increase transparency on performance metrics, service and rates. The Maximum Revenue Entitlement was kept, but there will be changes to the methodology to reflect individual railway investment in capital. Interswitching was also overhauled, moving from cost-based rates to rates based on comparable traffic, applying to distances up to 1,200 km.

The coalition is calling for a costing review to be completed before any changes are made. Regular costing reviews are necessary to

ensure that the costs built into the MRE accurately reflect the actual costs of moving grain. However, the last full costing review for grain movement was completed in 1992.

As well, the producer coalition recommends that an industry rail capacity planning group, with producer representation, be created to add transparency into the system. The financial burden of constrained capacity within the grain handling and transportation system falls directly on producers; therefore, producers should be involved in the planning process.

The coalition is also calling for changes to increase transparency and equality of discontinuance provisions for producer car loading sites and grain dependent branch lines.

To read the complete brief, please go to [saskwheatcommission.com](http://saskwheatcommission.com), hover over "Producer Info" on the menu, and click on "Reports and Presentations".



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**[cropproductiononline.com](http://cropproductiononline.com)**



## Did you know?

The Canadian International Grains Institute (Cigi) provides customers from around the world with technical training and support in processing and end-use applications of Canadian grain and field crops. In 2016-17, Cigi met with customers from 35 different markets. For more information, please go to [Cigi.ca](http://Cigi.ca).



# IDEAS, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE

January 9 and 10, 2018

**NEW LOCATION in 2018:** TCU Place, Saskatoon (35 - 22nd St E)

**Hosted by:** SaskBarley, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, SaskFlax, SaskCanola, SaskOats, and Sask Wheat

**FEATURING SPEAKERS:**

**Dr. Brynn Winegard**

Award winning professor and expert in business brain science and "neuroleadership"

**Howard Yana-Shapiro**

Chief Agricultural Officer of Mars Inc. and Senior Fellow, Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Darrell Bricker**

Canadian author, pollster, public speaker and political commentator. CEO of IPSOS Public Affairs

**REGISTRATION:**

**Early registration:**

**\$150** - Available from November 1 to November 30, 2017

**Regular registration:**

**\$200** - Available from December 1, 2017 to January 5, 2018

**Registration at the door:**

**\$250**

**One-day registration:**

**\$150**

For more information, visit:

**CROSPHERE.COM**



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