



# Navigating the Variety Registration Pathway



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Grain Growers of Canada  
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Patty Townsend  
Canadian Seed Trade Association

## ♪ Let's Start at the Very Beginning ♪

- 1<sup>st</sup> Seeds Act in 1905
- Responding to false claims (100 bushel wheat), new Act in 1923 required varieties to be licensed by the Minister in order to be sold
  - All varieties had to be tested and approved by CSGA Plant Breeders' Committee
- 1937 all vegetables except potatoes exempted
- 1986 corn exempted
- 2009 Three-Part System created

# The Current Variety Registration System

## *Seeds Act*

*(1) Except as provided by regulations, no person shall:*

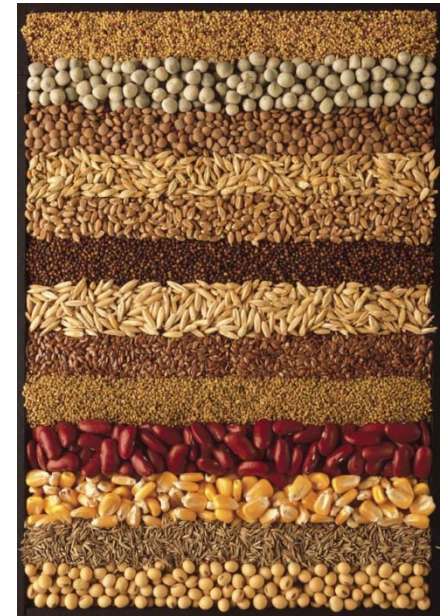
*(b) Sell or advertise for sale in Canada or import into Canada seed of a variety that is not registered in the prescribed manner*



Except in the “Canadian Wheat Board Area” – farmers may import unregistered varieties for planting on their own farms

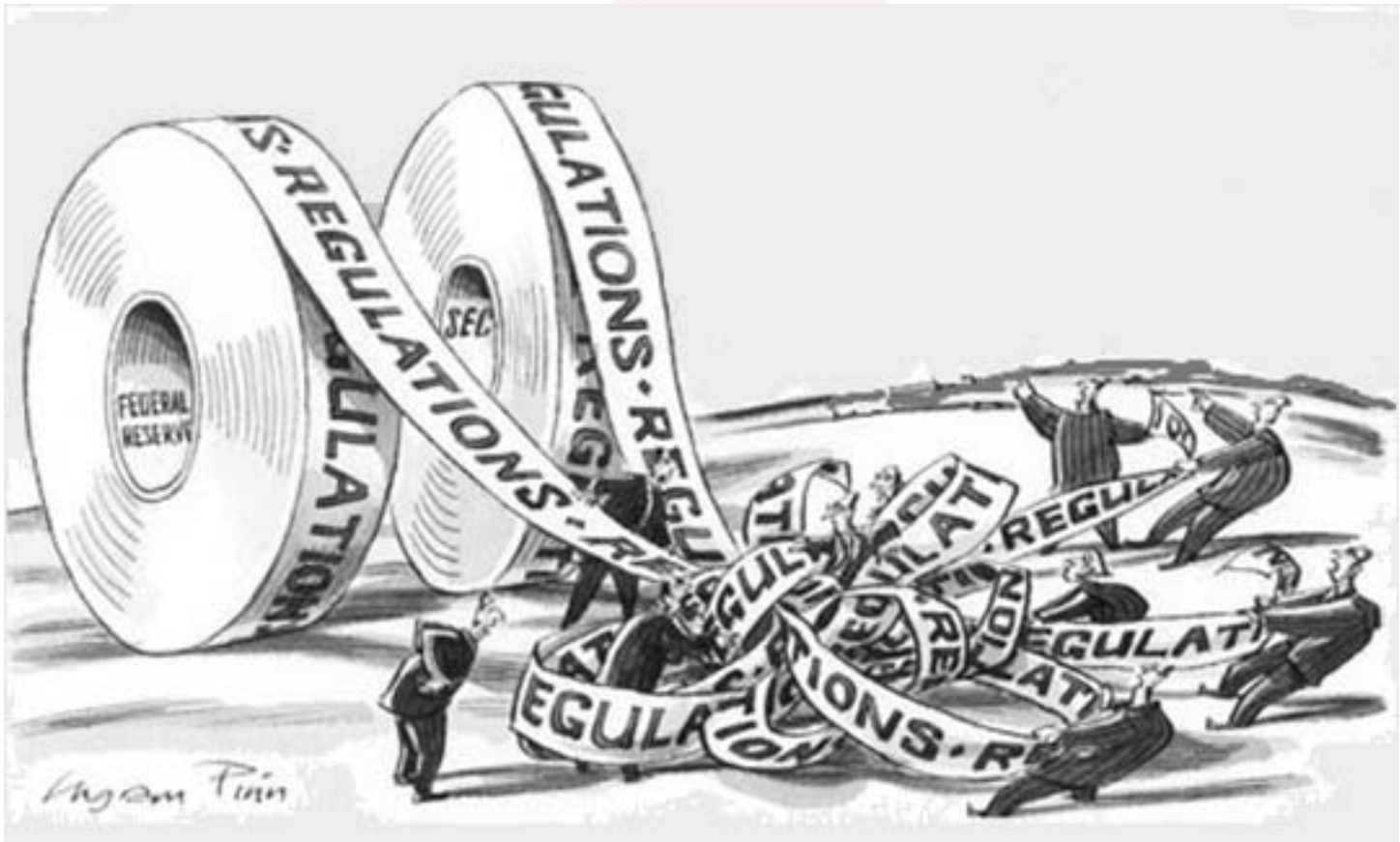
# Seeds Regulations Schedule III

- Lists crops subject to variety registration
- Not included in Schedule III
  - Chickpeas
  - Corn
  - Fruits & vegetables
  - Non-oilseed soybeans
  - Ornamental plants
  - Turf-grass species
  - Emerging industrial crops (*Camelina*, *Brassica Carinata*)



# Three-Part System

- Divides Schedule III into three parts with different requirements for registration
- Objective was to create a more flexible system





Registration in any of the 3 parts requires an application to the CFIA containing:

- Proposed variety name, scientific and common name
- Pedigree, history, method of development
- Detailed description of the variety
- Is it sold in other countries?
- Details for how seed stock will be maintained
- Name and address of Canadian representative
- Representative sample of seed
- \$875 registration fee

Except for wheat, registration is national

## Part 1

- Official Recommending Committee (RC) recommendation required
- The Recommending Committee:
  - Establishes testing protocols
  - Determines what makes up “merit” (yield, quality, agronomics, disease resistance etc.)
  - Selects “check” varieties for comparison
  - Sets the number of trials and station years
  - Can take between a few months and 4 years



# Registration Snapshot

| Crop and Region  | Quality                      | Disease Resistance       | Agronomic           | Yield     | Site years  |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Western Canola   | Yes                          | collected                | No                  | Collected | 11 locations<br>1 – 2 years                                 |
| Eastern Oilseeds | Yes                          | Yes                      | No                  | Yes       | 6 reps<br>1 year  |
| Western Wheat    | Yes<br>32<br>parameters      | Yes<br>7 diseases        | Yes<br>5 – 7 traits | Yes       | 24 station<br>years over 3<br>years<br>1 year pre-<br>trial |
| Ontario Wheat    | Yes<br>14 – 17<br>parameters | Yes<br>Fusarium          | Collected           | Yes       | 10 station<br>years over 2<br>years                         |
| Quebec Wheat     | Yes<br>7 – 18<br>parameters  | Yes<br>Fusarium          | Yes                 | Yes       | 9 stations<br>over 3 years                                  |
| Atlantic Wheat   | Yes<br>11<br>parameters      | Yes<br>4 – 7<br>diseases | Yes                 | Yes       | 9 stations<br>over 2 years<br>(public)                      |



## Part 2

- Official Recommending Committee (RC) recommendation and testing still required
  - Recommending Committee sets conditions and testing requirements and verifies that the test requirements have been met
  - Does not conduct tests, or establish check varieties
- Only Safflowers are in Part 2



# 17 Recommending Committees operate regionally

- Alberta Forage Variety Committee
- Atlantic Field Crops Committee
- Manitoba Forage Crops Committee
- Ontario Cereal Crops Committee
- Ontario Forage Crops Committee
- Ontario Soybean and Canola Committee
- Ontario Pulse Crop Committee
- Ontario Tobacco Evaluation Committee
- Prairie Recommending Committee Oats & Barley
- Prairie Recommending Committee Oilseeds
- Prairie Recommending Committee Pulse and Special Crops
- Prairie Recommending Committee Wheat, Rye Triticale
- Quebec Cereal Committee
- Quebec Forage Committee
- Quebec Oilseed Committee
- Sask. Advisory Committee Forage Crops
- Western Canada Canola/Rapeseed Recommending Committee

## Part 3

- No Recommending Committee
- Only application to CFIA
- **8 week performance guarantee**
- Currently potatoes and sunflowers in Part 3
- Regulatory amendments published to list forages and oilseed soybeans in Part III

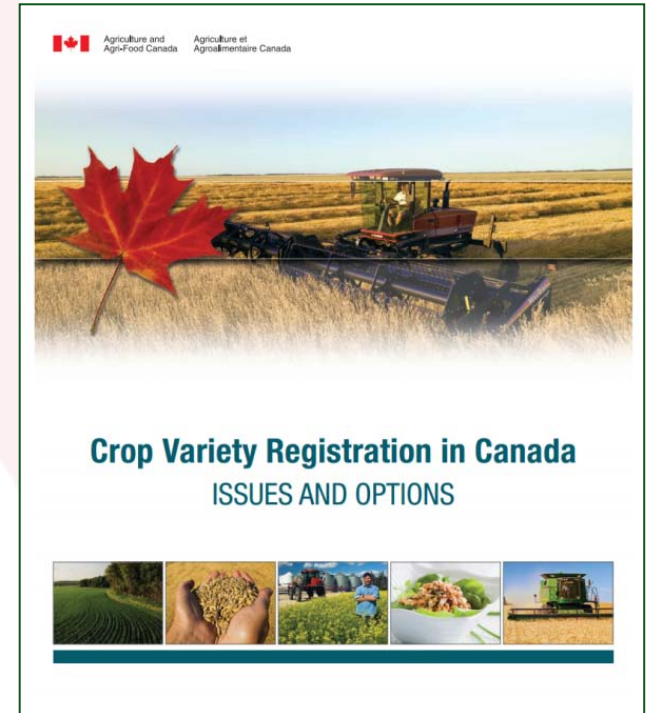


## “Recent” Developments

- Removal of KVD 2008
- General Purpose class for western wheat 2008
- 3 part system 2009
- Regulations to place forages and soybeans 2012
- Interim registration (1 year) for Canola 2010
- Expansion of CPS class for western wheat 2013
- Minister’s Request to Recommending Committees 2013
  - PRCWRT proposing
    - Remove 1 year of pre-trials (go to 3 years)
    - Accept some data from the U.S.
    - Accept data from “approved” labs
    - Reduce the number of diseases to 5

# Government Consultation on Variety Registration

- Launched in August, 2013
- Emphasis on competitiveness and market development.
  - Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden
  - Promote research and innovation



Options are for the medium to long term



# Option 1

- Don't change anything in the medium term
- Allow the impacts of “recent” changes to become more evident
  - KVD removal 2008
  - General Purpose Class 2002
  - 3-part system 2009
  - Move of some crop kinds 2013?
  - Expansion of CPS class for wheat 2013
  - Committee recommendations 2014?
- Re-assess in 5 years

# Option 2

- Move Crops currently in Parts 1 and 2 into Part 3
- Option for crop kinds to stay in part 1 or 2
  - Strong rationale required
  - Value chain consensus must be demonstrated

# Option 3

- Move Crops currently in Parts 1 and 2 into Part 3
  - Remove Parts 1 and 2 as an option for registration
  - No process for maintaining government recognized recommending committees or merit testing requirements
  - Crop value chains could design independent performance trial systems for information dissemination.



# Option 4

- Remove Government from Variety Registration
  - “exempt” all crop kinds from registration
- CFIA and Health Canada continue to ensure health and safety, and novelty assessments
- No role for variety registration office – activities could be assumed by crop value chains
  - Collect and maintain variety information
  - Grow-outs as required by seed standards
  - Variety verification testing
  - Collect and hold reference samples

# The Process

## Options paper and online consultation – ends Nov. 30

<http://agr.sondages-surveys.ca/surveys/AAFC/crop-variety-registration-engagement/?l=en>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  Canada

Home > Survey

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### Questionnaire: Crop Variety Registration in Canada: Options for the Future

Please complete and submit this form online. You may also print a PDF version available in the Alternative Formats section.

#### Privacy Notice

The information you provide in this questionnaire is collected in accordance with the Communications Policy of the Government of Canada for the purpose of seeking stakeholder comments on four (4) proposed options for modernizing Canada's crop variety registration system. Participation is voluntary and any personal information collected will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy Act and described in the Personal Information Bank PSU 914 entitled "Public Communications". You have the right to access and correct your personal information held by AAFC by contacting the Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator at ATIP-AIPRP@agr.gc.ca.

Also note that the Government of Canada will not make individual submissions public, but does maintain the right to report on the aggregate results.

For the purpose of this stakeholder engagement process, the Government of Canada will only take into account comments directly and specifically related to the crop variety registration system in Canada and its relationship to related systems, such as grain quality assurance and seed certification. Any off-subject comments will not be considered and no submissions will be accepted after the deadline of **November 30, 2013**.

#### Alternative Formats

[Help with alternative formats](#)

[Questionnaire: Crop Variety Registration in Canada: Options for the Future \(PDF Version, 419 KB\)](#)

[Next](#)

# 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.

Updated policy at CSTA's semi-annual meeting

## CSTA Policy, November, 2013

1. Current exemptions from registration must be maintained. This includes corn, non-oilseed soybeans, chickpeas, vegetable and ornamental crops, turf-grass species and emerging industrial crops
2. The ability to exempt crop species, types and kinds from registration (remove them from Schedule III) must be maintained.
  - In the very short term oilseed type soybeans should be removed from Schedule III exempting them from registration

## CSTA Policy, November, 2013

3. Except as in point 4 below, CSTA supports that all crop species, kinds and types should move to Part 3
  - Direct application to CFIA – 8 week turn-around
  - no recommending committees
  - no testing for merit
  
4. If the value chain for a specific crop kind provides solid rationale and demonstrates consensus, alternate systems could be implemented, including keeping crop species, kinds or types in Part 1 or Part 2 – or moving them back to Part 1 or 2
  - Value chain = variety development, production, processing, marketing and trade

## CSTA Policy, November, 2013

5. If crop species, kinds or types remain in Part 1 or Part 2, or move back to Part 1 or Part 2, new operating procedures for making a recommendation for registration must be developed to ensure that the system is efficient, flexible and predictable
  - CSTA supports if crops are to remain in Part 1, yield and agronomics should not be included in the definition of merit. Candidates should be assessed for disease and/or quality only.

## CSTA Policy, November, 2013

6. Movement of crop kinds, species and types between Parts of Schedule 3 should be by administrative decision, not regulatory change. CSTA supports moving the schedule out of regulation

## The Process

- Collect and report responses from consultation after November 30
- Face-to-face targeted consultations on a proposed option mid winter
- Decision on direction in late spring of 2014
- Implementation?

**Make your views known – if you don't have input, decisions will be made for you**





## CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DUE COMMERCE DES SEMENCES

Suite 505, 2039 Robertson Road

Ottawa, Ontario K2H 8R2

Tel: 613-829-9527 Fax: 613-829-3530

[www.cdnseed.org](http://www.cdnseed.org) [csta@cdnseed.org](mailto:csta@cdnseed.org)



[www.seedforthefuture.ca](http://www.seedforthefuture.ca)

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