



May 26, 2016

The Honourable Ralph Eichler
Minister of Agriculture
Constituency Office
319 Main Street Box 1845
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

Dear Minister Eichler,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), I write you today to offer our congratulations on appointment as Minister of Agriculture. We look forward to working collaboratively with you, your staff and your department.

My name is Scott Horner and I am the 64th President of CSTA. As General Manager of Alberta's HyTech Production Ltd., I am a passionate seed industry advocate and have been a member of CSTA's Board of Directors since 2008. I represent CSTA at the Seed Association of the Americas and I was past Chair of the International Committee and the Hybrid Canola Seed Production Sub-Committee. As president, I am working toward creating a healthy climate for investment and innovation in the seed industry, and on fostering a favourable regulatory environment that is forward looking and recognizes the needs of the seed industry.

CSTA brings together 125 member companies involved in all aspects of seed research, production, marketing and trade, both domestically and internationally. CSTA members range from small family owned and operated companies to large multi-nationals and are engaged in organic, conventional and biotech production systems. CSTA members are proud to be vital contributors to our nation's economy and to the health and well-being of Canadian consumers. A recent [study](#) done for the national [Seed Sector Value Chain Round Table](#) estimated the total economic impact (direct and indirect) of the seed industry at \$5.61 billion. The implied employment effect of the seed industry is 57,420 jobs and \$1.67 billion in wages and salaries, generating about \$81.9 million in tax revenue. You can learn more about CSTA and our diverse and dynamic members at our website: www.cdnseed.org.

The seed sector is ready to deliver the tools that the world's farmers will need to feed, fuel and clothe a population that is forecast to reach over 9 billion in 35 years: more productive varieties to produce abundant, healthy food; renewable fuels, fibre and industrial products; and to help protect and enhance the environment. In order to be successful, the seed industry must work in partnership with the entire agricultural value chain, and with you, as the Manitoba agriculture minister and your department.

Now that Canada has ratified UPOV 1991 our industry is in the enviable position to continue to grow and prosper in an era of uncertain economic times. As an industry we are committed to being good stewards of the land and place a great deal of emphasis on environmental sustainability, as highlighted by the *Guide to Treated Seed Stewardship*, which we published jointly with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA). We are members of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops and strong supporters of CleanFARMS, a not-for-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through the proper management of agricultural waste.

Growing for the World Une croissance axée sur le Monde

CSTA is responding to the opportunities and challenges on the horizon for the seed sector: implementing the amended *Plant Breeders' Rights Act*; ensuring continued support for science as the basis for regulatory and trade policies; and fostering a favourable regulatory environment that is forward looking and prioritizes innovation. CSTA's 1st Vice-President, Brent Derkatch works for Canterra Seeds based in Winnipeg and would welcome the opportunity to discuss Manitoba Agriculture with you at a time of your choosing. Brent will become CSTA's 65th President in July, 2016. CSTA staff member, Dave Carey, Manager, Government Affairs and Policy would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We hope that we will be able to meet with you in the near future to discuss these issues of great importance to the seed sector and how we can work collaboratively with the Manitoba government on solutions. In the meantime, should you or your staff have any questions, please contact the CSTA office at 613-829-9527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Horner', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Horner
President