



2018-19 APG BOARD

The APG board welcomed new Chair Don Shepert and four new directors to replace one-third of the board whose terms were completed.

“This is an exciting time for me to be Chair of the Alberta Pulse Growers,” Shepert said. “While market access challenges continue to be addressed, there are many other opportunities that will continue to be developed by the new board. We will miss the wisdom and guidance of the departing directors, but we are counting on the innovative thinking and enthusiasm that new directors bring to help Alberta growers sell more pulses.”



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The new Executive also consists of Vice-Chair Robert Semeniuk, a newly-elected Zone 5 Director, and Third Executive Member Jerome Isaac, Zone 4 Director.

At the January 30 annual general meeting during FarmTech, the board thanked outgoing Chair and Zone 5 Director D’Arcy Hilgartner of Camrose, Zone 2 Director Doug Sell of Strathmore, Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) John Kowalchuk, and Director-at-Large (Bean) Tim van der Hoek.

“My time on APG was very enjoyable,” Kowalchuk noted. “The people that you meet and the knowledge that you gain are more than worth it by themselves, but you also get the opportunity to have your voice heard at a provincial, and sometimes even national, level.”

Sell agreed that he benefitted in many ways from his six years as a director.

“I totally enjoyed my time on the APG board,” he said. “It gave me

a good overview of the ‘behind the scenes’ of what individual commissions do on behalf of levy payers, as well as the coordination of four of Alberta’s crop commissions (Pulse, Barley, Canola, Wheat) as the political landscape changed in Alberta four years ago. The passion of our staff was always obvious as well. My time as APG’s rep on the Grain Growers of Canada board was a highlight too as I am a bit of a ‘political junkie’. I learned so much about Parliament Hill, and I will really miss that.”

In January, the board welcomed new Zone 2 Director Kelisha Archer, Zone 5 Director Robert Semeniuk, Director-at-Large (Bean) Will Muller, and Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) Peter Konstapel.

Semeniuk, who grows yellow peas and other crops in Smoky Lake County alongside his wife Angela, joined APG as an Advisor in Zone 5 about five years ago. He served as the Zone 5 Chair for three of those years.

“I was looking to get more involved

in having a voice into shaping our industry’s future and really liked the way APG was set up,” he recalled. “I am excited to be representing such a large and diverse group of producers. It’s been a very steep learning curve so far, but the other board members and the fantastic staff at APG make it exciting to be engaged. I’m looking forward to this next chapter, and taking on the Vice-Chair position right away means my level of dedication to our pulse industry is a high priority. I look forward to serving on behalf of Alberta pulse producers for the next few years.”

Archer farms with her husband Thomas, her parents Neil and Lonna Bertsch, and sister and brother-in-law Kaitlyn and Landon Hill near Drumheller. They grow a rotation of cereals, canola, and yellow field peas on about 4,500 acres, as well as operate as a custom work business under the name Bertsch Custom Farms. Pulses have been included in their crop rotation for the last decade or so, to help stretch out the rotation and ease disease pressure in all their crops.



*(Back Row, Left to Right): Vice-Chair Robert Semeniuk, Zone 5; Greg Stamp, Zone 1; Dan Visser, Zone 3; Chris Allam, Zone 3; Will Muller, Director-at-Large (Bean); Rodney Volk, Zone 1; Peter Konstapel, Director-at-Large (Non-Bean).
(Front Row, Left to Right): Jerome Isaac, Zone 4; Kelisha Archer, Zone 2; Caroline Sekulic, Zone 4; Chair Don Shepert, Zone 5; Allison Ammeter, Zone 2.*

Having lived and worked off the farm for several years, Archer returned to her family's farm in 2015 with a renewed appreciation and passion for agriculture. When she had an opportunity to attend one of APG's Zone 2 meetings, Archer quickly saw that being involved in the commissions is an important part of giving producers a voice.

"Stepping up to the board level has been an exciting learning opportunity," Archer said. "I'm looking forward to being able to give back to the industry in this way."

Konstapel lives and farms near Spirit River with his brother and parents. They started growing yellow peas about nine years ago because they fit well into the rotation and it is convenient to harvest them early. Konstapel and his family grow peas,

canola, wheat, barley, oats and have experimented with lentils. He reports that including peas in the rotation helps to spread the workload. He served as an Advisor in Zone 4 for the past two years, which he said gave him an opportunity to see what APG does for farmers.

"I am looking forward to serving as a director-at-large to help make decisions about APG's future endeavours and seeing where the pulse industry will go in the future," he said.

Muller grew up in Bow Island and has been a part of the family farm all of his life. Working in southern Alberta, he had the opportunity to develop experience with many different irrigation systems, crops, and all the equipment it can require. Recently, he joined his

father and brother to create Muller Ventures Inc. growing crops like sugar beets, hybrid seed canola, commercial canola, flax, wheat, mustard, beans, peas and lentils. Muller served on the Zone 1 board for the past three years and as Zone 1 Chair last year.

"Serving on the Alberta Pulse Growers board has been an exciting learning curve for me and a great way to see everything that happens with the pulse industry outside of the farm," Muller said. "I'm excited to see what goes on at a provincial level, and to be part of all the committees that go along with it."

The 2019 Alberta Pulse Growers' AGM was again broadcast live via albertapulse.com, and the meeting video continues to be available on the APG homepage.