



APG'S CHAIR IS DEDICATED TO CONTINUING WORK TOWARDS PULSES ON EVERY FARM, ON EVERY PLATE

The Chair of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission (APG) was elected for a second year to lead the organization towards achieving its vision of pulses on every farm, on every plate.

Robert Semeniuk of Smoky Lake was re-elected to the role of Chair at a meeting following January's virtual annual general meeting.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the work of this board to maximize opportunities for Alberta's pulse farmers," Semeniuk said. "The addition of two new Directors at Large will bring fresh perspectives as we continue promoting and building upon the economic benefits of growing beans, peas, faba beans, lentils, chickpeas and soybeans, as well as the sustainability of our industry."

Semeniuk grows yellow peas and other crops alongside his wife Angela. He will lead an Executive Committee that includes new Vice-Chair Shane Strydorhst of Neerlandia (Zone 3) and Past Chair Don Shepert of St. Brides (Zone 5).

John Kolk of Picture Butte (Zone 1) and Beverley Wieben of Fairview (Zone 4) were acclaimed as Directors at Large for Bean and Non-Bean respectively.

Kolk has been farming for more than 40 years. He and his family operate 3,000 irrigated acres and 1,000 dry land acres. They grow 750 acres of dry beans and a few quarters of Marrowfat peas most years. He has served on numerous agricultural and community boards and councils.



APG Chair Robert Semeniuk detailed APG's accomplishments and outlined the organization's strategy for the future in the Year in Review 2020-21 video played at the annual general meeting.

He currently chairs the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, serves on the RDAR board as Finance and Audit Chair, the bean advisory committee for Viterra and on his local church council.

"Pulses have a great future," Kolk said. "I see pulses and dry beans as a sustainable growth opportunity for Alberta."

Wieben and her family farm 2,300 acres near Fairview. She served as a councillor for the MD of Fairview No. 136 for nine years, as well on the local ag service board for 10 years. She is currently serving a second term on the Land Agent Advisory Committee as a landowner representative.

"I want to be active in Alberta Pulse Growers for I believe that pea protein presents opportunities for all growers to the bottom line of

profitability for the producer," she explained. "I feel it's important to continually expand pulses grown in Alberta and I hope that with new varieties we will see soybeans, lentils, chickpeas, faba beans grown throughout the province as peas are now."

The previous Directors at Large, Will Muller of Bow Island and Peter Konstapel of Spirit River, were elected as Directors for Zone 1 and 4 respectively.

APG's 12-member board also includes Directors Greg Stamp of Enchant in Zone 1, Kevin Auch of Carmangay and Allison Ammeter of Sylvan Lake in Zone 2, as well as Chris Allam of Ardrossan in Zone 3 and Jerome Isaac of Crooked Creek in Zone 4.

Outgoing Directors Caroline Sekulic in Zone 4 and Rodney Volk in Zone 1 were thanked for their service at the



New Director-at-Large (Bean) John Kolk.



New Director-at-Large (Non-Bean) Beverley Wieben (inset) grew this impressive crop of peas in 2020.

annual general meeting. Allam was also recognized for his service in the role of Vice-Chair.

“I joined APG because I wanted to learn about the industry I live in,” Sekulic recalled. “To see the depth of trade, the pursuit of policy and the network of research that keeps Alberta growing has provided the best experience of my ag career. Every farmer deserves to know, support and participate in the strength and voice we have - so join APG!”

Volk also encouraged other pulse farmers to get involved in APG. He cited benefits such as:

1. Meeting other producers from across the province;

2. Seeing first-hand all of the research being done in Agronomy and Marketing;
3. Being involved in areas like the Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium (PPMUC) that have a direct benefit to the pulse industry;
4. Seeing how much advocacy the APG staff is involved in with federal and provincial governments; and
5. Getting the inside track on what is happening in the ag industry.

“The first thing that I think of enjoying with APG is the interaction with the Directors from across the province,” Volk recalled. “We all may grow pulses, some even the

same types, but quite often there is a difference in production system. Quite often these discussions would lead me to thinking of different ways of doing things.”

He continued: “My favourite memory would have to be my first trip to Ottawa for Pulse Canada, seeing first-hand what was involved in these types of events was an eye opener. This was also my first commercial plane trip. It also was my biggest surprise in how involved and well-informed the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture was. Up until then my opinion of the Senate was fairly low so this was a pleasant surprise.”



Outgoing Zone 4 Director Caroline Sekulic.



Outgoing Zone 1 Director Rodney Volk.