*Robert Semeniuk, APG Chair*

## CHAIR'S REPORT

# BUSY SEASON OF SUMMER TOURS, INCREASED POLICY WORK & REVAMPING FALL MEETINGS FOR APG

The growing season should be wrapping up by the time you read this issue, and meeting season will be ramping up for Alberta Pulse Growers.

After two years of barely any summer events, I am grateful to have been able to participate in a Growing with Pulses tour to Southern Alberta in mid-July to see beans and other pulses growing under irrigation, which is fascinating to me as a farmer from northeastern Alberta. Directors and advisors were also given the rare opportunity to tour the Viterra bean plant, as well as attend the launch of the Know Your Food ag education trailer in Calgary during a whirlwind two days of activity. You can check out photos from these and other summer tours in this issue.

Upcoming events include a new take on zone meetings for APG. As I write this, we are finalizing the details on a set of regional meetings that we expect will allow more farmers to participate in their zone annual general meetings in a meaningful way. Details appear on the back cover of this issue. APG is looking for advisors in all zones in advance of the fall meetings. I strongly encourage any pulse farmers who want to help grow the province's pulse industry while developing their own leadership skills to join the APG team. More information about getting a nomination form to let your name stand is available by contacting the APG office. It's a great introduction to the organization, working on committees, and guiding the industry. We are also going to have two provincial director seats available in January, and the people who fill those seats are selected by their respective zones. I started as an advisor, became chair of Zone 5, and this is now my second year as provincial chair. Every step was a great opportunity to learn and contribute to growing the sector.

Meanwhile, APG is pleased to hear that there was an agreement signed regarding the new five-year cost shared program to be called the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP). In an update from Nate Horner, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, we were told that SCAP will run from 2023-2028 and is worth $3.5 billion. That is an increase over the previous Canadian Agriculture Partnership funding program, but it is yet to be seen how it will all work. Although many farm organizations have expressed that climate linkages should not be a component of BRM programming, the provinces and federal government will be running a pilot program for one year looking at how best management practices could be applied in a region to give an incentive. Sound actuarial work will be done to see if this change could be applied to BRM programming and more specifically AgriInsurance. There will be planned changes to AgriInvest programming as well. Farmers who have allowable net sales of at least $1 million will need an Environmental Farm Plan or other agri-environmental risk assessment to access AgriInvest.

APG has had many opportunities to engage with government recently. Agronomy research and extension has always been a large part of what APG does, but policy is taking up an increasing amount of staff and director time because it is starting to affect what farmers do in regard to agronomy.

I was pleased to have an opportunity to meet with pulse farmers across the province this summer, and I look forward to seeing many more of you at the fall zone meetings and other upcoming industry events.