



SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024



By Kyle Larkin, Executive Director,
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The year 2023 brought about significant change and transformation for the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC), setting the stage for a fresh start in 2024. With a new team, GGC is gearing up to seize the opportunities and overcome the challenges of our ever-evolving political landscape.

Ever since I assumed the Executive Director role at GGC in July, it's been a whirlwind of activity. Engaging directly with farmers and GGC member organizations throughout the summer and the fall was enlightening. These conversations, farm visits and collaborations with member organizations like Alberta Pulse Growers have provided invaluable insights into the daily realities experienced by Canada's grain farmers that help us be better advocates in Ottawa.

This fall, leveraging our firsthand experiences, GGC led advocacy efforts on Parliament Hill, prioritizing key issues, including transportation, trade and innovation. Collaborating with

strategic partners like the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and the Agriculture Carbon Alliance proved instrumental in promoting grain farmers' interests, notably on bills C-234 and C-282. We were also delighted to welcome Kinga Nolan as our Manager of Policy and Regulatory Affairs. Nolan's extensive expertise in both politics and agriculture will be a tremendous asset to GGC and our members as we move forward into 2024.

We know that Parliament Hill is a long way from the farmgate, which is why we are dedicated to bridging this gap and ensuring farmers have a seat at the decision-making table. I am a big believer that if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. Farmers stand at the crossroads of food security and sustainability, integral to discussions on affordability and accessibility.

Canada's grain sector garners global recognition for its excellence and high quality. Encouraging a policy landscape that empowers domestic initiatives is crucial. In a time where sustainability dominates global policy, a one-size-fits-all solution is unrealistic. Solutions must reflect the diverse Canadian landscape. What works for farmers in Alberta may not work for those in Quebec or those in the Netherlands. We need to ensure we're developing policies that reflect our domestic landscape. Following international norms without considering our unique geography just isn't viable.

The ongoing discussions regarding fertilizer targets and the politicking around Bill C-234 highlight the discrepancy between the government's strategic priorities and the domestic realities of grain farmers. That's why we're

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dedicated to collaborating with our membership and partners to amplify the voice of farmers in Ottawa. We eagerly anticipate our lobby days in the spring, where farmer members will join us for discussions with parliamentarians and policymakers.

As we look ahead to 2024, our primary focus remains to ensure grain farmers actively contribute to policies that directly impact them—whether it's related to transportation, trade, regulatory processes that enhance innovation access or the creation of sustainability pathways that utilize existing innovations and best practices. We are committed to advocating for solutions that reflect the experiences and realities of Canadian grain farmers.

As we approach the new year, we stand ready to collaborate and leverage the strengths of our new team. Together, I'm excited to see what we can accomplish on behalf of Canadian grain farmers.