

## COMMENTS FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

2017 marks 10 years since agricultural organizations identified the need for a transparent partnership between government and the agriculture industry, as well as a collaborative approach to addressing agri-environmental issues.

Since then, AEPA has served as an important forum to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of relevant issues, and hear perspectives of partner organizations and stakeholders. This has helped provide informed input into agri-environmental policy development processes, as well as help build relationships.

While many policy issues have arisen and been addressed over this 10-year period, others have continued to remain pertinent such as land-use planning, water and ecosystem services. New topics, including climate change and relevant aspects of social licence, are now on our agenda and have proven to be equally important.

In order to ensure relevant agri-environmental issues are being addressed in the future, it is important partner organizations provide input into the development of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. This feedback will help ensure AEPA is focused on the issues that will have a significant impact on the sustainability of agriculture.

This year we welcomed a new AEPA partner; ALUS Canada joined as an environmental non-governmental organization. We look forward to their participation and involvement in our work.

We would also like to thank all partner organizations and members of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups for their continued commitment to AEPA. We look forward to working together again in 2017-2018 (and beyond).

**Martin Van Diemen** Industry Co-Chair  
**Sean Royer** GOA Co-Chair

## ABOUT US

Advisory Committee members are committed to the development of informed, proactive, trustworthy, credible and relevant input into agri-environmental policy development processes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER/ALTERNATE	ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED (AS OF APRIL 2017)
Martin Van Diemen	Industry Co-Chair
Sean Royer	Government of Alberta Co-Chair
<b>CROP INDUSTRY</b>	
Neil Gorda/Shannon Sereda	Alberta Barley Commission
Dan Doll/Ward Toma	Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Don Shepert/Leanne Fischbuch	Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
John Wozniak/Erin Gowriluk	Alberta Wheat Commission
Terence Hochstein	Potato Growers of Alberta
<b>LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY</b>	
Tanis Downey/Diana O'Hara	Alberta Elk Commission, Alberta Goat Breeders Association, Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Reindeer Association, Alberta Whitetail and Mule Deer Association, Bison Producers of Alberta, Horse Industry Association of Alberta, Ostrich Association of Alberta
Rich Smith/Bryan Walton	Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Mike Froese/Erna Ference	Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta
Lorrie Jespersen/John Wurz	Alberta Milk
Will Kingma/Darcy Fitzgerald	Alberta Pork
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENT</b>	
Tracy Scott	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Howie Bjorge	ALUS Canada
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
Soren Odegard/Pat Gordeyko	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Ronda Goulden	Alberta Environment and Parks
Dave Burdek/Sean Royer	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
<b>LIAISON</b>	
Don Reiter/Candace Vanin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AEPA would like to thank members who stepped down this past year and welcome new representatives. AEPA also acknowledges the support of partner organizations, Crop Sector Working Group and Intensive Livestock Working Group for their continued commitment.

# PROGRESS REPORT 2016-2017



## CONTACT

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## WHO WE ARE

- A multi-stakeholder partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and environmental non-government organizations, working to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective.
- A consensus-based forum providing advice and input into agri-environmental policy development processes on topics related to the Land-Use Framework (LUF), water, climate change, and social licence.
- A forum to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of agri-environmental issues relevant to the agriculture industry.

## OUR PURPOSE

### Vision

Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance.

### Mission

To engage and build knowledge of partner organizations which enable AEPA to provide credible, proactive, and respected input to agri-environmental policy development processes.

## WHAT WE DO

### Strategic Priorities

1. Engage in agri-environmental policy development processes including land-use, water, air and biodiversity.
2. Provide timely policy input on innovations and emerging opportunities that will help the agriculture industry achieve environmental sustainability.
3. Engage and build understanding with partners and stakeholders to enable the agriculture industry to be a credible partner in agri-environmental policy development processes.

## OUR WORK IN 2016-2017

2016-2017 was the 2nd year of the 2015-2018 AEPA Strategic Plan.

As in previous years, priority policy issues included topics related to LUF and water. However, with the Government of Alberta's (GOA's) increased focus on the Climate Leadership Plan, the topic became a higher priority for AEPA. Other topics included the Next Agricultural Policy Framework (NPF, the successor to Growing Forward 2), and social licence (agri-environmental aspects). There was also increased engagement and relationship building with partner organizations (including GOA) and external stakeholders.

In regards to LUF, with the delay of regional planning processes, there was an opportunity for AEPA to renew consensus land-use planning key messages, and increase knowledge and understanding of related topics, including ecosystem services. Increased engagement with stakeholders, such as the Alberta Land Institute and Alberta Innovates, was also important.

On the issue of water, AEPA and partner organizations were invited to participate in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's (NAWMP's) Wetland Stewardship and Agriculture Working Group. The purpose of the working group was to address challenges and find opportunities for agriculture to successfully implement Alberta's Wetland Policy. There was also opportunity to better understand other relevant topics such as drainage.

On the Climate Leadership Plan file, AEPA provided a submission with consensus input to the Climate Technology Task Force, who provided advice and recommendations to GOA. AEPA was able to engage in direct conversation with the Deputy Minister from the Alberta Climate Change Office.

To further build knowledge on issues related to water and climate change, AEPA hosted a tour of ALUS Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada project sites in the County of Vermilion River. The day also included a tour of Lakeland College's Centre for Sustainable Innovation.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017-2018

As AEPA looks towards 2017-2018, engagement in LUF and water related policy development processes will continue when opportunities arise. This includes responding to regional planning documents when released and participating in stakeholder engagement sessions. AEPA will also monitor progress in work related to ecosystem services and maintain its engagement in the implementation of the Wetland Policy.

AEPA will continue its role in providing input into policy development related to climate change, agri-environmental aspects of social licence, development of NPF, and other relevant issues as they emerge.

As AEPA enters the 3rd year of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, work will also focus on the development of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

AEPA's communication with partners will occur through tools such as the website, e-newsletter, and monthly updates.

## OUR VALUES

Collaborative

Informed

Proactive

Trustworthy

Credible

Relevant