

Grain Growers of Canada

Job Description – Executive Director

Objectives:

- 1) To advance the interests of Canada's 65,000 grain growers with the federal government;
- 2) To build on the organization's position as a leading influencer of government through a proactive and consistent lobby presence in Ottawa;
- 3) To build and maintain member consensus on priority setting among often complex agricultural policy topics;
- 4) To communicate the value of the organization's work to its members and the grain farmers they serve; and,
- 5) To provide executive advice to, and leadership and management of, the organization based on strategic direction from the Board.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Work with the Board of Directors and Membership to develop priorities and strategic direction;
- Oversee a proactive year-around advocacy calendar and issue specific advocacy strategies;
- Provide expertise in idea generation and execution of advocacy strategies, including senior level support on networking, consensus building and lobbying where required;
- Shepherd the development of an annual education and outreach campaign alongside members to support the advocacy strategy;
- Build consensus among members on GGC policy positions and advocacy strategies, both directly and in the management of staff;
- Ensure GGC policy is coordinated by leveraging member positions & expertise and to develop a plan to fill gaps in expertise where they may exist on priority topics;
- Ensure the GGC conducts information gathering with officials and political staff making the GGC the best source of information for members on government activity related to priority topics;
- On an ongoing basis, determine tactics to use the best spokesperson for grain growers to advocate on issues at the right time and the right venue. This shall include an active role as a lead national spokesperson for growers on a day-to-day basis;

- Collaborate extensively with other key grain sector organizations, especially on topics where the GGC is playing a supporting role;
- Build and cultivate relationships with all external stakeholders including other agriculture sector colleagues and organizations, the media, and the farmer community at large;
- Manage timely communication of advocacy information to members, as well as development of plans and materials in demonstrating the value of the organization to all growers;
- Provide executive advice to the Board of Directors on organizational priorities, structure and governance; and
- Oversight of all financial and human resource matters of the organization.

Attributes:

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to create and drive successful government advocacy strategies in Ottawa on topics relevant to the agricultural sector. You are equally comfortable in delving into detailed policy discussions as you are in meeting with members of the federal Cabinet. You have a large network within the federal government giving you access to numerous avenues of information and influence. Your experience preferably includes significant interaction with the grains and oilseeds sector, and you have an aptitude for building and nurturing relationships with colleagues in relevant organizations. You are passionate about representing farmers and seek out opportunities to both understand on-farm business realities and communicate the federal policy work that affects them.

A natural at speaking with government officials, politicians, and private sector decision makers, your colleagues would see you as a strong and charismatic voice for growers. You preferably have considerable experience as a leader in the agriculture sector, with a clear ability to bring diverse interests together into a unified approach through a collaborative leadership style.

This is a full-time executive position that requires the successful candidate to be located in Ottawa, Ontario. Regular domestic travel will be required, international travel will be limited. A bilingual candidate (English-French) will be given additional consideration. Previous experience managing people is strongly encouraged. The successful candidate is likely to have 10+ years of experience in the agricultural sector.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience, to be discussed with the successful candidate.

