



National Sunflower Association of Canada
Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association
Manitoba Canola Growers Association
Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc.
Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc.

July 6, 2018

The Honourable Ralph Eichler
Minister of Agriculture
Manitoba Agriculture

Transmitted via email

Re: Manitoba Agriculture Research and Innovation Committee (MARIC)

Dear Mr. Eichler:

The National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC), Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association (MWBGA), Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA), Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc. (MCGA Inc.), and Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc. (WCMI) are farmer elected grower organizations, directed and funded to represent the interests of our farmer members. The five organizations use check-off dollars to grow the potential of their respective crop types as profitable and sustainable crop choices for Manitoba through investments in research and market development.

The five commodity associations were pleased to hear on June 11, 2018 the appointments to the Manitoba Agriculture Research and Innovation Committee (MARIC). Many of our associations have already submitted or will be submitting applications to various programs under Ag Action Manitoba through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). The nine appointees are influencers in research and innovation in Manitoba, and we recognize the expertise and knowledge the appointees will bring to MARIC.

However, as Chairs and Presidents of our associations we must express our concern about the direct conflict of interest position the appointees will be in as *“the MARIC will be responsible for assessing and making funding recommendations related to research proposals submitted under the five-year, federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership.”* Many of the appointees are employed by organizations who will receive direct funding from the various CAP programs.



Many of our associations have conflict of interest policies to ensure board members and employees do not seek or obtain personal or business gain while working for the organization. Therefore, we respectfully request the following information:

- MARIC's conflict of interest policy, including conflict of interest guidelines that explains what qualifies as a conflict and the steps MARIC will take to analyze and manage the conflict, and
- MARIC's disclosure policy, including how and when appointees disclose their conflict of interest.

Providing the above policies to our associations will be an important step in assuring our boards and memberships when applications for funding from Ag Action Manitoba, from any organization, is submitted the assessment and funding decisions are based on merit of the application.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark McDonald, President, National Sunflower Association of Canada

Mr. Fred Greig, Chair, Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association

Mr. Chuck Fossay, Chair, Manitoba Canola Growers Association

Mr. Dennis Thiessen, President, Manitoba Corn Growers Association, Inc.

Mr. Doug Martin, Chair, Winter Cereals Manitoba Inc.

Cc: Ms. Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Agriculture