

## **Atlantic Grains Council Bio**

The Atlantic Grains Council was incorporated in 1984; it is the only regional organization to represent grain and oilseed producers on a regional and national level. The Council is run for producers by producers. The Council is a founding member of Grain Growers of Canada; a national organization representing the grain and oilseed producers from coast to coast. The Council also holds a seat on the Eastern Standard Committee of the Canadian Grain Commission.

Eligibility for membership to the Council, one must be a producer group representing or linked to the grain and or oilseed sector in the Atlantic region. At the present time there are five full members to the Council and eight associate members representing all aspects of the grain and oilseed value chain.

The Council's mandate is to advance and promote the research and marketing of grains and oilseed, communicate with its member's producers and Industry regarding issues and marketing, promote a better understanding between grain and oilseed producers and end-users and represent the region's producers in matters which affect the Industry as a whole.

For the last thirty years, the Council has been working together with its farming members in building a strong industry by providing a forum to discuss issues of concerns and interest. The Council has recently finished a Grain Strategy for the region (November 08) and had the opportunity to present it to Minister Ritz and the three Maritime Agriculture Ministers in Halifax in February 09. In April 09, the Council was asked to make a presentation to the four Atlantic Agriculture Ministers on the formation of the Atlantic Crop Development Committee which will oversee the regional variety trials. The Council was also asked in April to make a presentation to the Standing Committee of Agriculture to give an overview of the Atlantic Grain and Oilseed Industry. In October, the Council was asked again to make a presentation to the Standing Committee of Agriculture regarding the effect of the disease of Fusarium Head blight and the effect the toxin it produces had on the region.

The Council has a very active Research Foundation which was established in 2000, it has been working on various projects in the last five years with great success. To mention a few, in 2005 the studying of the production of Flax in the region and see if it could be successfully grown, not only did it prove it could be successfully grown, it led to adding Flax to Dairy rations for herd health. The Council is presently working on a number of proposals to better the Industry for our regional producers.

The Council will continue working for the regional producers to try and better the Industry and encourages producers and organizations to work with us.