

Grain Farmers of Ontario Advisory Committees

Grain Farmers of Ontario's Board of Directors sets the direction and focus of the organization. It is then up to staff to ensure that the mission and vision as outlined in the Strategic Plan is fulfilled. To do this, five advisory committees – consisting of directors, delegates, and a staff department manager – meet to review activities, discuss important industry issues, and make recommendations to the Board.

Delegates interested in serving on a board advisory committee are asked to declare their interest via email to Anita Downes at adownes@gfo.ca by early February each year. This email must include a short description expressing your interest and highlighting any relevant experience you would bring to the committee. The Board of Directors finalizes the selection of committee members at the March Board meeting. Committee members serve a one-year term.

Communications

Advise the board on general public relations campaigns, grower publications, advertising policy, media relations, press releases, and website presentation and content.

The Communications Committee meets quarterly to review and provide feedback on public outreach initiatives and farmer-member communication activities. This would include regular review of gfo.ca and goodineverygrain.ca by committee members.

Government Relations

Advise the Board on matters related to government policies, including regulatory agencies, and liaise with all levels of government, general farm organizations, and other commodity groups. The Committee shall also assess and develop new or make changes to existing government programs and policies for consideration by the Board.

The Government Relations Committee meets four times a year and members participate in events such as Delegate Policy Day, a Queen's Park reception with MPPs, and a reception with MPs in Ottawa.

Market Development

Advise the Board on strategic planning and initiatives for marketing and utilization of grains and oilseeds.

In addition to attending three to four meetings per year, delegates on the Market Development Committee are asked to liaise with industry and other organizations on market issues and help increase consumer awareness, consumption, and knowledge of Ontario grains and oilseeds. Committee members also review proposals submitted from companies and recommend projects to the Board for funding through the Grains Innovation Fund.

Research and Innovation

Advise the Board on research priorities and the level of resources appropriate for each issue and opportunity. The Committee shall also advise on policy related to new technology.

In addition to the time spent reviewing proposals, Research and Innovation Committee members attend four or five meetings throughout the year. One of these meetings involves a tour of a research facility where funded work is ongoing. This provides an appreciation for how funded research plays a role in the industry as a whole.

Farmer Wellness Committee

Advise the board on farmer wellness initiatives including the various resources provided to farmer-members, Farmer Wellness related events, and aid in the development of strategic partnerships.

The Farmer Wellness committee meets four times per year to review and provide feedback on Farmer Wellness initiatives and may participate in events such as webinars and help in the development of strategic partnerships.