Regulation

The Canadian Grain Commission is responsible for regulating all phases of grain handling in Canada, including the inspection, grading and weighing of grain, the maintenance of statistical and research facilities, and the constitution of the Grain Standards Committees, which establish the standards for the various grades of grain.

The Grain Research Laboratory of the Commission conducts surveys and publishes information each year on the protein content of the wheat crop. It also conducts baking tests with flour milled from Canadian wheat and issues a report on the baking quality of the Prairie wheat crops. The reputation that Canadian grain has long enjoyed in world markets is due in large part to the rigid controls exercised by the Commission.

Training and development facilities

The Canadian Grains Institute was established in 1971 by the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Grain Commission in co-operation with the Federal Government. Located in Winnipeg, it represents an initiative by these agencies and Ottawa in the area of market development for grains and oilseeds and their products. The Institute will place emphasis on courses dealing with the practical managerial, institutional, economic and commercial aspects of the Canadian industry. As an institutional facility, it will provide for executives of both foreign and domestic industry, for technical personnel, and for current and prospective buyers and users of Canadian products, the opportunity to acquire training and firsthand knowledge of all facets of the industry -- including production, marketing, distribution and processing.

In addition, the Institute will offer courses demonstrating the technology of milling, baking, pasta-manufacturing, feed-mill operations, oilseed crushing and utilization, malting, brewing and distilling. The entire program is designed to contribute to the maintenance and enlargement of markets at home and abroad for Canadian grains, oilseeds and their products.

Industry co-ordination

At the Prime Minister's suggestion, the Canada Grains Council was established in 1969 primarily to improve co-ordination within the industry and to assist in reaching consensus on recommendations to government. The administrative costs of the Council are shared by government and industry members. Membership in the Council is "open to all non-governmental organizations and associations whose members are directly engaged in the production, handling, transportation or marketing of grain and grain products". The Council at large meets semi-annually and the Board of Directors meets about ten times yearly. The Council is serviced by a small secretariat.

In its three years of operation, the Council has demonstrated the capacity of the industry to work together on matters of mutual interest. It has made several recommendations to government on issues referred to it by government or on studies the Council itself has initiated.