



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Seed Regulatory Modernization and Input from Recommending Committees

PGDC Plenary Session

March 4, 2026



Overview of CFIA's Policy Proposals

CFIA is presenting 52 Proposals for Change based on Stakeholder Recommendations, Input from organizations and Agency proposals

Reducing Red-Tape and Administrative Burden

- 14 major
- 4 minor
- 4 future consideration
- **22 Total**

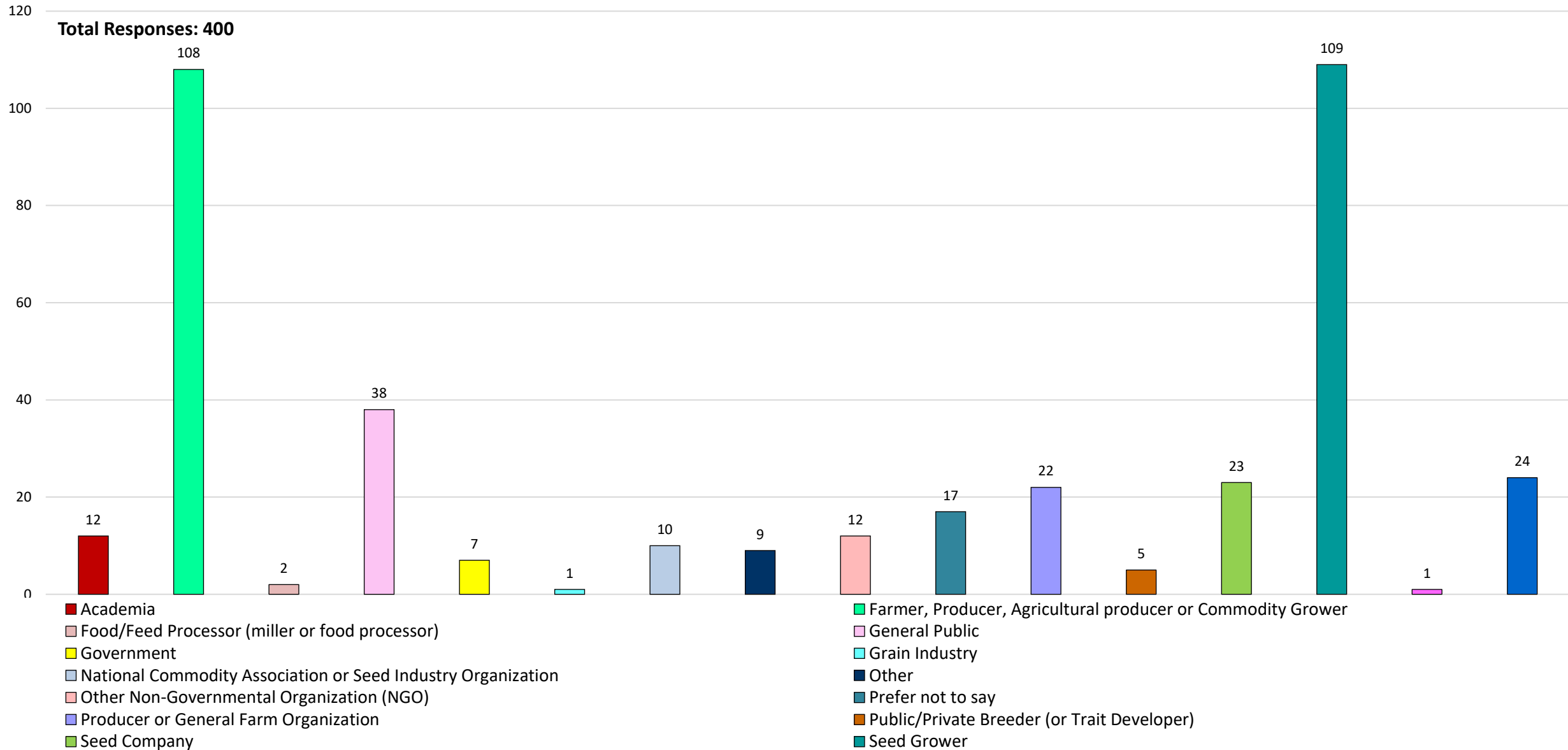
Supporting Marketplace Competitiveness and Innovation

- 5 major
- 7 minor
- 2 future consideration
- **14 Total**

Protecting Farmers Consumers and the Environment

- 6 major
- 9 minor
- 1 future consideration
- **16 Total**

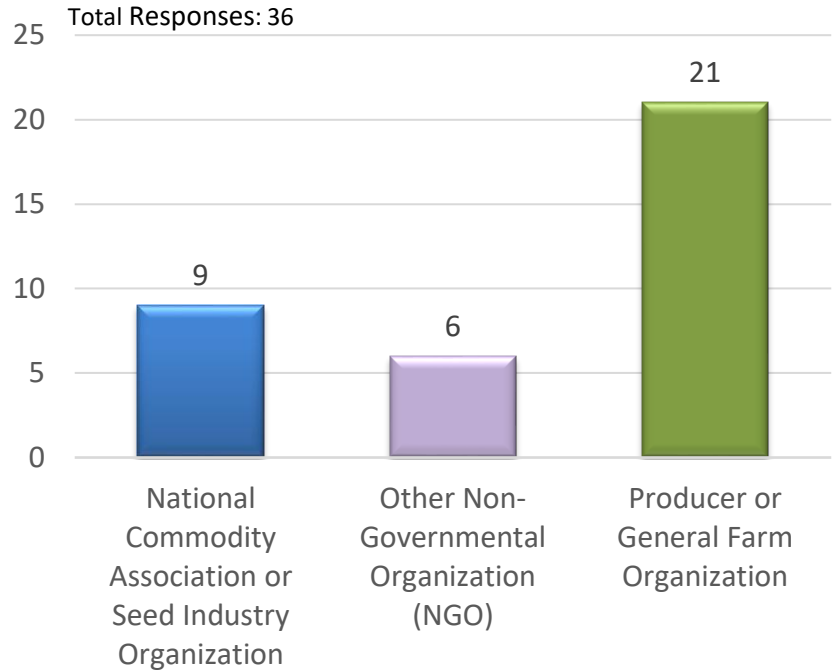
Stakeholder Responses to the Policy Paper Consultation



Responses on behalf of Organizations/Associations

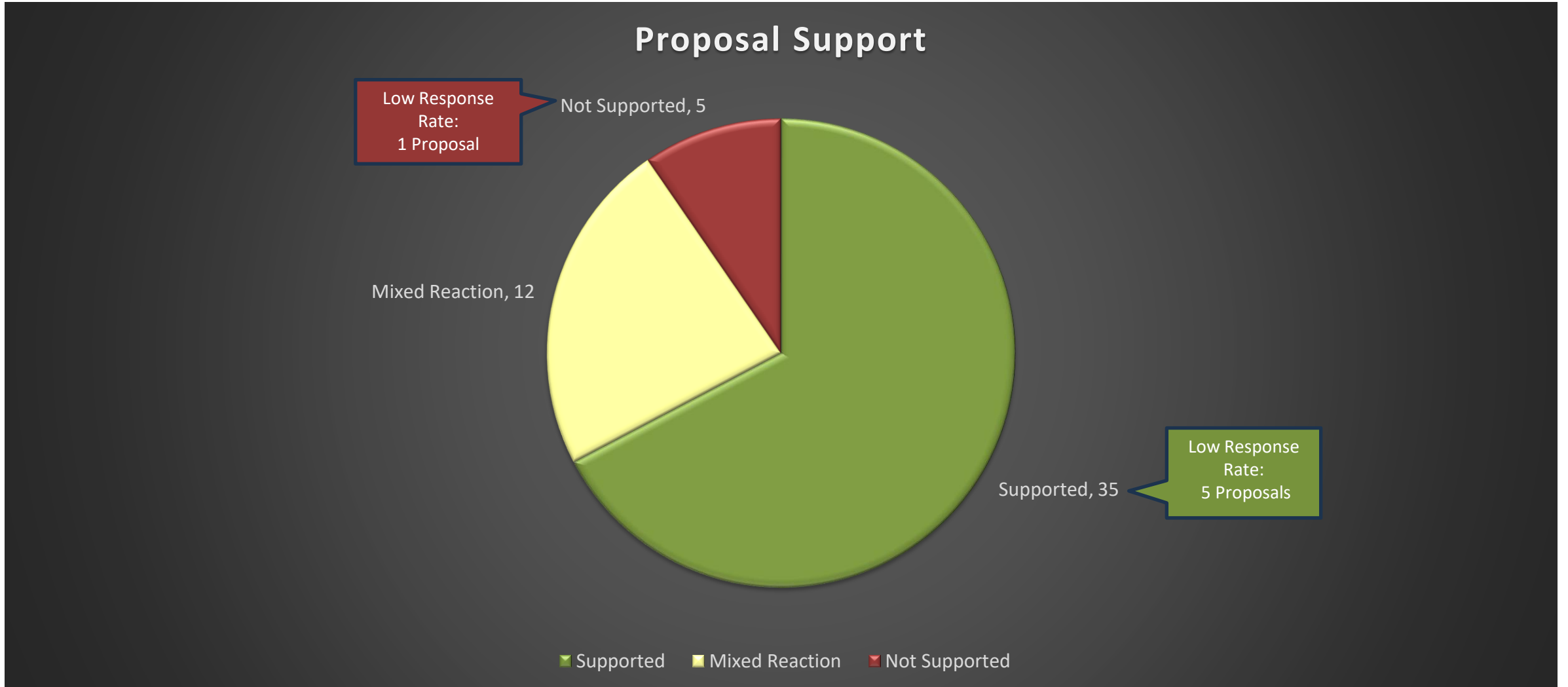
Responses on Behalf of Members

Total Responses: 36



Grain Growers of Canada	Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association	Ontario Seed Growers' Association	Alberta-British Columbia Seed Growers' Association	Alberta Seed Processors	National Farmers Union in New Brunswick
Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance	Grain Farmers of Ontario	SeedChange	Canola Council of Canada	Seeds Canada	Association des Conditionneurs de Semence Pédigrée du Québec
National Farmers Union	Canadian Seed Growers' Association	Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies	Manitoba Organics	Union des producteurs agricoles	Soy Canada
Keystone Agricultural Producers	Ontario Federation of Agriculture	Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission	Saskatchewan Pulse Growers	Manitoba Seed Growers' Association	Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario	Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission	Alberta Grains	Canada Organic Trade Association	Agriculture Producer Association of Saskatchewan	Growers of Organic Food Yukon Association
Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne	Bowen Island Food Resilience Society	Vigilance OGM	Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers	Canadian Canola Growers Association	Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Summary of Support on the 52 Proposals



The CFIA Needs Feedback from the Recommending Committees

Heritage and Heirloom

- The CFIA produced an overview document that was sent to recommending Committees, please review and provide your responses to the questions asked.
- Feedback requested by **March 31st, 2026**

Alternatively Bred

- Develop appropriate testing conditions and performance standards for varieties that have been bred specifically for alternative crop production systems (organic, low carbon etc.)
- CFIA will work with you to finalize these changes by your 2027/2028 annual meeting

Harmonization of Regional Restrictions

- Develop criteria and a standard process to enable regional restrictions on variety registrations to be applied consistently across recommending committees
- CFIA will work with you to finalize these changes by you 2027/2028 annual meeting

Heritage and Heirloom Crops

- Proposal developed and supported by the Variety Registration Task Team and the Common Seed Task Team
- Strongly supported in the winter 2023 consultation (87%), widely supported (315 responses) in the summer 2025 consultation
- Stakeholders want a process that is
 - Accessible and affordable
 - Protective against disease risk
 - Fair relative to requirements places on traditionally bred varieties



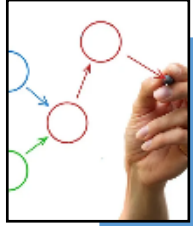
**87% said
Yes!**

Heritage and Heirloom

Heritage: a cancelled or "to-be-cancelled" variety of a crop kind subject to variety registration which is 50 years or older, intended for small scale cultivation and was not cancelled for being detrimental to human or animal health and safety.

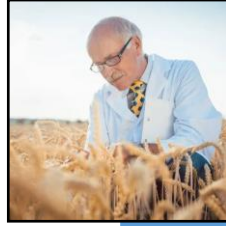
Heirloom: a non-hybrid variety of a crop kind subject to variety registration that was never registered but grown in Canada prior to 1970 and intended for small-scale cultivation.

Proposal



Process

- Amend Regulations to provide requirements specifically for heritage and heirloom varieties of crops currently listed in Part I of Schedule III



Testing

- Disease testing requirements to be determined for each crop type
- Must not be cost prohibitive for this industry in terms of time and money. Testing should be 1 year with possible extension of up to 1 additional year. Proponents can submit their own data for review



Assessment

- RC decision is based on the validity of the test results to establish an updated disease profile for farmers

How it will Work

Heritage and heirloom registrations are determined by the first valid submission

- The first registrant of “Red Fife” establishes the official variety description
- No other variety may be registered under that name; close relatives require full merit assessment
- Registrants must be able to prove that their variety is derived from the original

Thank you for your input!

The CFIA has asked a series of questions to all Recommending Committees regarding the proposed path forward, we appreciate your input by March 31st, 2026

- Once the regulatory amendments are decided upon, Recommending Committees can consider what testing is relevant for heritage and heirloom varieties.
- We are available at this meeting to answer any questions, and you can always reach out to us directly or by contacting:

vro-bev@inspection.gc.ca



Questions

Thank you for the opportunity to present today!