

Agenda for the 2022 Annual Members Meeting

Seeds of Diversity Canada
Semences du Patrimoine Canada

Online, November 20, 2022 at 16:00 Eastern time

Agenda	L'ordre du jour
Introductions	Les présentations
Agenda and meeting format	Ordre du jour et format de l'assemblée
Minutes of Nov 21 2021	Le procès-verbal de l'assemblée de Nov 21 2021
Annual Report, Financials, Auditor	Le rapport annuel, les états financiers, vérificateur des comptes
Election of Directors:	L'élection du conseil de direction
Adjournment	Ajournement
Conversation!	Conversation!

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Seeds of Diversity Canada

Semences du patrimoine Canada

November 21, 2021 at 14:00 Eastern time

Notes re the meeting format:

The meeting was held online using a Zoom meeting platform that allowed all members present to speak and type questions. Votes were processed using the Zoom “Poll” feature. All motions were presented with the choices “yes/oui”, “no/non”, and “abstain/m’abstenir”. Unless noted otherwise, all motions below were passed without any “no” votes: i.e. all members either voted “yes”, abstained, or did not register a vote within the 20 seconds allotted for each motion.

Attended by the following Directors and Staff:

Steph Warr	Matthew Kemshaw	Teprine Baldo
Rachelle Rocha	Zoe Arnold	Valerie Gabriel
Bob Wildfong	Angie Koch	Christine Sloboda

and 76 members at large.

The Meeting is Called to Order

Bob Wildfong welcomed the members in attendance, introduced the directors and staff, and explained the proposed online format of the meeting: the Zoom poll feature, bilingual motions shown on the shared screen, and that we propose to dispense with the practice of a seconder for each motion since all are standard business.

A motion to: accept the agenda, that Bob Wildfong chair the meeting and Teprine Baldo record the minutes, and to approve the online format of the meeting was unanimously carried.

The Minutes of the Preceding Annual General Meeting

A motion to: accept the minutes of the preceding meeting of members held Nov 15, 2020 was unanimously carried.

The Annual Report, Financial Statements, Appointment of Auditor

A motion to: accept the Annual Report and financial statements of the preceding fiscal year as presented; and to appoint Curtis-Villar LLP as the auditor for the current fiscal year, to perform a review of the organization’s finances was unanimously carried.

Election of Directors

A motion to: re-elect Zoe Arnold and elect Dariya Quenneville to the board of directors for terms of three years was unanimously carried.

Adjournment

A motion to: adjourn the meeting was unanimously carried.



Annual Report 2022

Seeds

	Member Seed Exchange	Seeds of Diversity Seed Library	Canadian Seed Catalogue Index
Species	196	80	91
Varieties	2396	3032	7759
Flowers	139	23	15
Fruit	33	50	26
Grains	29	97	355
Herbs	62	3	
Vegetables	2133	2959	7363

Seeds that our members offer to each other

Seeds that we back up to ensure future supply

Seeds sold by Canadian garden seed companies

Members

Province	Members
AB	128
BC	285
MB	34
NB	41
NL	18
NS	94
ON	762
PE	16
QC	347
SK	76
YT	6
NT	1
USA	25
Total	1833

The biggest news of 2022 is that membership is now free. After consultation with our members last year, we removed the \$35 fee to encourage greater participation by the wide seed saving community that had sometimes seen that as a barrier, and encouraged our supporters to continue to keep our programs alive through donations.

You responded enthusiastically: our membership numbers are higher than they have been in decades, participation in programs such as our Member Seed Exchange dramatically increased during the past year, and your generosity as donors has continued to keep our programs well funded and viable.

Several members expressed concern that “free membership should not come cheaply”, meaning that they did not want to see Seeds of Diversity’s capacities diminished or diluted by a flood of new members who did not hold the same dedication to quality and purpose. Our board of directors shared that concern, and took it seriously. We want our seed exchange to be a way for people to conserve rare seed varieties, instead of just a place to exchange cheap seeds.

When we promote membership, therefore, we focus on the value of joining a group of seed savers, to learn, to save and share seeds, and to meet others concerned about preserving food biodiversity. With that message, not merely a promotion of the seed exchange itself, we are aiming to invite Canada’s seed savers (and those interested in learning) to become members for mutual benefit.

So far, the increase in our membership numbers has seemed to be accompanied by an increase in seeds offered through the seed exchange, and new members seem to be genuinely interested in our purpose as a seed saving organization.

Seed Library Collection Re-organized and Moved

Since 2007 we have managed a formal collection of seeds; a back up of the varieties that our members circulate in the seed exchange, as well as varieties that have been dropped from seed catalogues, and obtained from other seed libraries and seed banks.

There are now thousands of samples of seeds in the collection. Some are kept in short-term storage, in an air-conditioned room adjacent to our office. They will only remain viable for a limited time, but they are easily accessible and intended to be circulated to growers, events, and other seed libraries. Others are stored in freezers, well-dried for the long term, as backups in case the short-term seeds run out or cannot be regrown quickly enough.

During the 15 years that we operated this collection, our back up collection was kept in a large freezer at the Everdale farm near Hillsburgh Ontario. We are grateful to Everdale for its generosity and support, but our arrangement was planned to end in 2021, when we intended all along to move the seeds to a different home. We found that new home in a set of freezers at Fertile Ground farm near St Agatha Ontario, which is a very convenient location.

During the winter and spring of 2022 Aileen Verdun and Angie Koch, our Seed Library coordinators, unpacked all 290 jars of our back-up collection, containing 2360 packets of seeds, re-inventoried and re-packed them to confirm their contents, and re-dried them for continued frozen storage.

In practice, we do not use our back up collection often, which is a good sign that the short-term portion of the collection is being used properly. However, a few times in recent years we have needed a back up sample, and it has been a delight to find that those seeds were still viable after many years of storage. Now, it is assuring to know that the back-up collection is accurately inventoried, and stored safely until the next time we might need it.

We have also begun the process of re-inventorying and germination-testing the older samples in our short-term collection. Viable seeds will be sent to member seed growers to produce fresh samples, and surplus seeds will be available at Seedy Saturday/Sunday events, and through our member seed exchange.

Community Seed Grow-outs

Although it is true that Seeds of Diversity's purpose is to grow rare seeds, our primary goal is actually to grow more seed savers! We rely on experienced seed savers to help grow out the rare seeds in our collection, but ideally we would not even need a collection if there were more seed savers growing and perpetuating all our seed varieties in the first place.

The best way for a beginning seed saver to find a meaningful project is to take our "Grow One Rare Variety" challenge. Find a variety that is only available from one or two sources, get some seeds from them, learn to save the seeds, and re-offer them through the Member Seed Exchange. If everyone did that for just one rare variety, there would be no rare varieties!

For members who want to be more connected to our seed collection, but not quite at a point where they feel able to grow high-quality seeds for it, we offer "Save an Old Bean Seed" and "Save an Old Tomato Seed" programs. When a seed sample in our collection is duplicated by others, and beginning to lose viability, we don't need to keep it anymore but it seems a shame to waste it. Instead, we offer those seeds to any members who want to

grow them out. The seeds might not all germinate, but they will be a variety from our collection that is difficult to find elsewhere, so they are worth growing and saving. We encourage members to offer their saved seeds through the Member Seed Exchange, and at local seed swaps, to make those varieties available to other gardeners too.

One of our ongoing projects for members is our “Tall-bearing Ground Cherry” participatory breeding project. For the past few years, we have offered seeds of a strain of ground cherries (*Physalis pruinosa*) that is being selected for upright growth habit to make it easier to harvest, and for good flavour. Members learn how to select the plants that show the desired traits, and save seeds from those. We mix everyone’s saved seeds together and send them back out for further “in-situ” selection and improvement each year. It is a work in progress, and we thank everyone who has participated so far.

Our garlic collection, grown in partnership with a food bank and social service agency that donates garden space for us, now has 68 varieties in good health. Our goal is to preserve and offer these varieties to gardeners across the country, and to encourage others to multiply and share them. We’ve seen more garlic diversity in gardens, farms, seed exchanges, and markets since we started this program, so hopefully we’ve helped make that happen. We cannot use re-grown garlic from other growers, to prevent disease and pest organisms affecting the collection, so instead we harvest bulbils from the mature garlic scapes and offer them to help gardeners diversify their garlic. Bulbils are much less likely to contain insect pests and soil-borne disease organisms than bulbs are, and they’re much more economical to ship.

Seedy Saturdays and Seedy Sundays

For three decades, Seedy Saturdays and Seedy Sundays have been one of the most effective ways for us to promote Seeds of Diversity’s work, to meet new members in communities across the country, and to distribute surplus seeds from our national Seed Library collection. Over 170 of these events occurred across the country in 2019, and we have great hopes for their return in 2023.

These events have been a significant source of Seeds of Diversity’s revenue through direct fundraising, as well as a major driver of online sales of books, memberships, and donations. Our volunteers at Seedy Saturdays/Sundays should know that their work translates into hundreds of online contributions after the events.

It goes without saying that 2020-2022 were not the best years for Seedy Saturdays/Sundays, but we are proud to have supported about 50 events through those years when they shifted to online formats.

Indications for 2023 are that there is abundant interest in returning to in-person events, and community organizers are already making preparations. However, we are also aware that there will be challenges to return to the format that we had all been used to. Some event organizers have retired, and their successors have never planned an in-person Seedy Saturday/Sunday. Some community groups have lost the connections with local exhibitors and vendors that they previously had renewed annually.

Similar to the way that we supported Seedy Saturday/Sunday organizers in 2021-2022, we will host a series of networking meetings to help planners from many communities meet, discuss their plans for 2023, and learn from each other. As well, we will offer another set of online presentations to provide content for virtual/hybrid events. As always, we will promote all Seedy Saturday/Sunday events on our web site and through our social media.

Seeds of Diversity shares the challenge of returning to in-person events, since our own volunteer relationships and promotional materials are now three years out of date. If you would like to help Seeds of Diversity’s

promotion at a local event next year, please let us know. There are several ways that you can assist, big and small.

Look for Seedy Saturdays and Seedy Sundays in the new year at www.seeds.ca/events !

Youth In Food Systems, Career Interview Series

With support from the Gay Lea Foundation we are producing a series of youth-developed video interviews with food systems leaders to inspire high school students to learn about careers in Canada's future sustainable food system. One out of eight Canadians work in the food system, and a sustainability mindset should start early.

You can see our youth volunteers' amazing work at www.YouthInFoodSystems.ca

Youth In Food Systems, Youth-led Media

To engage thinking and learning about sustainable food, we give high school youth the tools to research and produce podcasts, videos, blog posts, infographics, and other digital media to inform their peers about the food issues that concern them. Mentors advise on content curation and provide coaching on format and fact-checking, but youth are free to explore the food sustainability subjects that they care about most.

Youth In Food Systems, Youth Produce Markets

Since 2018 we have facilitated a project in which youth grow produce in local community gardens and plan, promote, and operate a series of pop-up markets in food-insecure neighbourhoods. Currently, this program only operates in Waterloo Region, Ontario since it is local to our office and staff team, but we encourage local agencies in other municipalities to extend the idea elsewhere.

School Food Gardens

Our initial program for school garden education in 2017 created food gardens and education programs at 45 schools in Waterloo Region, Ontario, and it still remains a part of our youth program. Due to its physical nature it is difficult to expand this program beyond its original boundary, but we encourage agencies in other municipalities to re-use our resources.

Digital Media

We produce an email newsletter that is approximately monthly, in English and French, sent to about 12000 subscribers. Members are automatically included unless they unsubscribe. Topics include gardening and seed-saving techniques, news about events and programs, pollinator awareness, current issues in sustainable food, and profiles of people and projects of interest to our community of members.

Our social media features frequent (at least weekly) updates, news, reminders about seasonal tasks in the garden, and what's happening in our community of gardeners and seed savers.

The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

Seeds of Diversity is proud to be a partner in The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, which leads training programs for seed producers, participatory plant breeding, and analysis of seed policy. The program is operated by SeedChange in partnership with several organizations across Canada including Seeds of Diversity.

Find out more at www.seedsecurity.ca

Fundraising

In addition to charitable donations from over 300 individuals, Seeds of Diversity was fortunate this year to have the support of the following funders :

- The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security
- The Weston Family Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Peterborough K.M. Hunter Foundation
- Gay Lea Foundation
- Waterloo Region Community Foundation
- Canada Summer Jobs

Volunteers

Finally, our deepest thanks to all of you who give your time to help Seeds of Diversity to save food biodiversity and heritage, and to give opportunities to gardeners young and old to learn and support a future sustainable food system.

Volunteers are our most valuable resource, and we could not accomplish all this without you. Without the willing help of hundreds of seed growers, event organizers, promotion volunteers, youth mentors, translators, writers, and many others, Seeds of Diversity could do only a tiny fraction of its current work.

Thank you!

Seeds of Diversity Canada Financial Statements
Fiscal Year August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022

The following are our finalized internal financial statements for the past fiscal year. They are currently being reviewed by independent accountant Curtis-Villar LLP of Guelph Ontario.

Reviewed documents will be available from Curtis-Villar within a few weeks, and we will forward them as soon as possible.

Seeds of Diversity Canada

Profit and Loss

August 2021 - July 2022

	TOTAL		
	AUG. 2021 - JUL. 2022	AUG. 2020 - JUL. 2021 (PY)	% CHANGE
INCOME			
4001 Membership Fees	18,267.37	31,302.46	-41.64 %
4002 Seed Exchange Directory	2,261.48		
4100 Donations - General Use	68,644.30	75,232.16	-8.76 %
4105 Seed Library Donations	8,700.00	10,605.00	-17.96 %
4222 School Food Gardens revenue	104,457.00	66,204.17	57.78 %
4235 Grants Seed Library	42,761.84	30,000.00	42.54 %
4240 Youth in Food Systems revenue	6,066.00		
4224 Youth OTF resilient communities grant	23,393.94		
Total 4240 Youth in Food Systems revenue	29,459.94		
4300 Interest Earnings	192.26	501.32	-61.65 %
4510 Book sales	12,689.78	17,309.41	-26.69 %
4532 Sales Other	2,747.81	2,992.56	-8.18 %
4546 CEWS		8,191.36	-100.00 %
Total Income	\$290,181.78	\$242,338.44	19.74 %
COST OF GOODS SOLD			
5220 Cost of Publications	7,583.10	5,627.52	34.75 %
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$7,583.10	\$5,627.52	34.75 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$282,598.68	\$236,710.92	19.39 %
EXPENSES			
5021 Events and Promotion	7,843.49	13,636.86	-42.48 %
5028 Fundraising (non-donations)	510.00		
5029 Fundraising (donations)	5,636.38	6,202.57	-9.13 %
5040 Office	12,050.00	11,916.00	1.12 %
5045 Office Networking and Website	2,317.84	2,845.70	-18.55 %
5050 Insurance	1,758.60	1,726.20	1.88 %
5090 Office Supplies	640.76	271.12	136.34 %
5110 Postage and Delivery	3,482.05	4,699.32	-25.90 %
5130 Training Board and Staff	134.95	597.23	-77.40 %
5133 Administration	14,470.96	12,548.69	15.32 %
5205 Digital Media	10,522.60	11,000.02	-4.34 %
5210 Seed Exchange	7,332.33	8,886.85	-17.49 %
5300 Telephones	761.06	798.00	-4.63 %
5341 Board Meeting and AGM Expenses	641.00	1,442.68	-55.57 %
5343 Volunteer Expenses	100.00		
5410 Credit card, PayPal, donation services, bank fees	1,984.14	2,195.56	-9.63 %
5700 Accounting/Audit/Bookkeeping fees	492.00	3,340.00	-85.27 %
5840 School Food Gardens expense			
5841 SFG Labour OTF	70,705.73	48,275.38	46.46 %
5842 SFG Materials OTF	33,146.46	18,793.86	76.37 %
5843 SFG Other OTF	12,031.57	1,825.40	559.12 %
5844 SFG CSJ	21,983.50	23,106.34	-4.86 %

Seeds of Diversity Canada

Profit and Loss

August 2021 - July 2022

	TOTAL		
	AUG. 2021 - JUL. 2022	AUG. 2020 - JUL. 2021 (PY)	% CHANGE
5846 SFG CEF project		661.80	-100.00 %
Total 5840 School Food Gardens expense	137,867.26	92,662.78	48.78 %
5854 Seed Library Total			
5855 Seed Library Wages	33,532.23	19,044.62	76.07 %
5856 Seed Library Supplies	1,417.90	2,776.97	-48.94 %
5858 Climate Crops	1,344.84		
Total 5854 Seed Library Total	36,294.97	21,821.59	66.33 %
5860 Youth in Food Systems			
5862 YFS materials	468.07		
5864 YFS travel	461.77		
5867 YFS OTF resilient communities	4,112.33		
Total 5860 Youth in Food Systems	5,042.17		
5895 HST non-refundable	2,882.05	2,524.81	14.15 %
5901 Uncategorized Expense		-114.18	100.00 %
Total Expenses	\$252,764.61	\$199,001.80	27.02 %
PROFIT	\$29,834.07	\$37,709.12	-20.88 %

Seeds of Diversity Canada

Balance Sheet As of July 31, 2022

	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1016 CIBC Account	963.00
1106 BMO Savings	200,000.00
1108 BMO	11,578.74
1111 YNCU Cash Account	1,552.10
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$214,093.84
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1130 Accounts Receivable (A/R)	25,897.57
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$25,897.57
1112 Petty Cash Waterloo Office	251.28
1142 Inventory Books	3,658.60
1190 Prepaid expenses	1,191.60
1400 Due From Unrestricted Fund	-56,119.75
1401 HASP Due From Restricted Fund	222.28
1402 Seed Library Due From Unrestricted	56,119.75
Total Current Assets	\$245,315.17
Non-current Assets	
1014 HASP Investments	33,037.65
Total Non Current Assets	\$33,037.65
Total Assets	\$278,352.82
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2231 Accounts Payable (A/P)	6,325.24
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$6,325.24
2152 YFS grants unrecognized income	61,737.06
2153 SL grants unrecognized income	32,238.16
2210 GST/HST Payable	-106.55
2223 GST paid	0.59
Total Current Liabilities	\$100,194.50
Non-current Liabilities	
2140 Accrued Liabilities	3,000.00
2225 HST/GST Refundable	-6,629.65
2400 Due to Restricted Funds	222.28
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$ -3,407.37
Total Liabilities	\$96,787.13
Equity	
3603 Seed Library Fund	56,120.25
3604 HASP Fund	33,259.73
3605 Accumulated Surplus	16,615.93

Seeds of Diversity Canada

Balance Sheet
As of July 31, 2022

	TOTAL
Retained Earnings	45,735.71
Profit for the year	29,834.07
Total Equity	\$181,565.69
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$278,352.82

Annual Report 2022 Financial Narrative

Seeds of Diversity Canada

With respect to the fiscal year ending July 31, 2022.

Membership Fees

Seeds of Diversity removed the annual fee for membership this year. The membership fee revenue shown in our accounts represents the portion of the previous year's fee applying to the 2021 calendar year, which is why it is about half of the previous year's amount. Next year, this line will be zero.

Seed Exchange

This revenue is the amount that members chose to pay for a printed copy of our member seed exchange (\$10 each). It is not a round number because of U.S. currency conversion. The corresponding expense includes the printing, but also the ongoing development and maintenance of our online platform.

Donations

General Use donations are individual charitable donations to support our programs. Seed Library donations are "Adopt-a-Variety" donations. The 2022 amount is generous (thank you donors!) and particularly so because there was a large one-time gift in the previous year that made it artificially greater than it would have been otherwise.

School Food Gardens, Youth OTF program

Revenue and expenses for School Food Gardens and "Youth OTF" are connected through a contract with the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support youth engagement at school and community gardens.

Sales, Cost of Publications

Seeds of Diversity does not sell seeds, but it sells books, garlic bulbils, and offers a few minor materials leftover from programs for occasional revenue. After subtracting the costs of printing our books, our net sales revenue was \$8045, which covers most of our office expenses.

CEWS

Seeds of Diversity benefited from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy during the last portion of 2020 but since our revenue returned to normal levels after that, we did not claim this subsidy in 2021 or 2022.

Events and Promotion

Despite the near absence of any in-person events in 2020-2022, we invested a large amount in support of Seedy Saturdays/Sundays that were shifting to virtual formats. Our supports included

networking organizers, producing online presentations, providing honoraria to speakers on behalf of virtual events, and licensing the movie "Modified" for viewing at all Seedy Saturdays.

Program Expenses

Program categories such as Seed Library, Youth In Food Systems, and Climate Crops, include material expenses and staff wages, as provided by grants received for those purposes and charitable donations directed toward those programs.

Bottom Line

Although our bookkeeping program refers to this as Profit, as a non-profit organization it is actually just surplus funds that will be retained for the next year. We traditionally contribute year-end surplus to our Seed Library Fund to finance the future stability and smooth operation of our seed collection. Your donations will go even further, and sustain seeds even longer!

Any questions?

Seeds of Diversity works very hard to make our financial information as transparent and clear as possible. We know that we have to earn your donations every year, so we do take the utmost care with your money. We really want you to see that for yourself! So go ahead and ask anything.