



## 2024 Annual General Meeting

All members are invited to attend our annual members' meeting.

Saturday November 23, 2024

12:00 pm BC  
1:00 pm Mountain  
2:00 pm SK, Central  
3:00 pm Eastern  
4:00 pm Atlantic  
4:30 pm NL

Zoom link :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85027204203?pwd=0cBGglhuaOw7DK5UStuuMqfjptbvpC.1>

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## Agenda for the 2024 Annual Members Meeting

Seeds of Diversity Canada  
Semences du Patrimoine Canada

Online, November 23, 2024 at 15:00 Eastern time

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>L'ordre du jour</b>
Introductions	Les présentations
Agenda and meeting format	Ordre du jour et format de l'assemblée
Minutes of Nov 25, 2023	Le procès-verbal de l'assemblée de Nov 25 2023
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 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Seeds of Diversity Canada  
Semences du patrimoine Canada

November 25, 2023 at 15:00 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:

Matthew Kemshaw	Teprine Baldo	Susan Carey	Kristine O’Brien
Pauline Ripat	Rebecca Ivanoff	Wendy Sauvé	Zoe Arnold
Pam McKinnon-Coco	Shelley Spruit	Katlynn Sverko	Susan Ladner
Kate Veinot	Bob Wildfong	Angie Koch	Christine Sloboda
Rayna Almas	Rebecca King		

and 32 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 21, 2021 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: elect Wendy Sauvé, Kristine O’Brien, Faye Bontje, Rebecca Ivanoff, and Shelley Spruit 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 2024

## Seeds

	Member Seed Exchange	Seeds of Diversity Seed Library	Canadian Seed Catalogue Index
Species	315	80	88
Varieties	2914	2819	9249
Flowers	229	22	120
Fruit	39	56	256
Grains	43	93	478
Herbs	85	3	
Vegetables	2518	2645	8395

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	268
BC	524
MB	107
NB	58
NL	36
NS	149
ON	1339
PE	15
QC	487
SK	125
YT	7
USA	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>3176</b>

### Membership and Member Seed Exchange

Our membership increased by about 31% over last year. A large proportion of our new members are actively participating in our programs, and we are thrilled to have more requests for our seed growing projects, stronger donation support, and greater representation among gardeners across the country.

New members offering seeds in our Member Seed Exchange increased the selection by 237 varieties not available in 2023 (9% more) and enlarged the exchange to over 3000 listings.

### Seed Library Collection

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

Short-term seed samples are stored 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. Long-term seed samples are stored well-dried in freezers, as backups in case the short-term seeds run out or cannot be regrown quickly enough.

During 2024, our Seed Library coordinators unpacked, re-inventoried, and tested 380 new samples of seeds, increasing our collection to 6057 specific seed lots. 2174 are stored in frozen long-term backup, and 3883 are stored at room temperature for convenient “working” access.

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.

In late 2024 we are 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.

### **Canadian Seed Catalogue Index**

Every year we re-create an index of the garden vegetable varieties available from seed companies in Canada. The complete list is available for free at <https://seeds.ca/sources> and at <https://seeds.ca/seedfinder>

In 2024, Canadian seed companies offered 8395 varieties of vegetables, compared to 7982 varieties in 2023 (a 5.1% increase). After many decades of declining commercial seed diversity in Canada, we are in a period of increasing diversity, and we credit the many small and medium scale seed companies that propagate and offer so many different varieties.

Besides offering a useful Canada-wide seed finding service for gardeners, our catalogue index has an important purpose: it helps us know which varieties are in the greatest need of rescue, back-up, and rejuvenation by seed savers.

We encourage all gardeners to use this index to find rare seeds - those available from only one source - save more seeds from those varieties, and offer them to other gardeners through our Member Seed Exchange. You can help save a variety from extinction this way!

### **Community Seed Grow-outs**

Although we often say 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!

Last summer we offered three other challenges to our members:

- Canadian Tomato Grow-out. There are many tomato varieties that were either bred in Canada or that have a long history of being well-adapted to our growing conditions. We encouraged our members to get to know these useful varieties and provided seeds for 118 growers.
- Beans in a Changing Climate. With Dr. Richard Hebda, we provided an assortment of hot-season and cool-season beans for 143 growers to test across the country.
- Breed a Better Ground Cherry. In its fifth season, our ground cherry (*Physalis pruinosa*) breeding project is aimed at developing a variety with an upright habit that can be harvested easily.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our programs. Seeds will be available again in 2025. We look forward to your enthusiastic help again!

## **Garlic Collection**

Our garlic collection, grown in partnership with a food bank and social service agency that donates garden space for us, now has 70 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 over 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 were back to their familiar in-person format in 2024, and we are already preparing for events in 2025.

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.

Although Seeds of Diversity does not operate or control any Seedy Saturday/Sunday events, we encourage and support them through a series of meetings to help organizers from many communities meet, discuss their plans for the next year, 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, and send free packets of our surplus seeds for swap tables all across the country.

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 your area at [www.seeds.ca/events](http://www.seeds.ca/events) !

## **Youth In Food Systems, Career Interview Series**

Our youth-developed video interview series with food systems leaders is starting its fourth season! To answer the question "What Do You Bring to the Table?", high school students learn about careers in Canada's future sustainable food system and produce short video interviews to share that information with other aspiring future food leaders. Did you know that one out of eight Canadians work in the food system? That's where today's youth will find jobs, and we believe that a sustainability mindset should start early.

You can see our youth volunteers' amazing work at [www.YouthInFoodSystems.ca](http://www.YouthInFoodSystems.ca)

## **Youth In Food Systems, Food Media Literacy**

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 Food 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.

### **Digital Media**

Our monthly email newsletter now has over 11,000 subscribers across Canada. 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](http://www.seedsecurity.ca)

### **Fundraising**

In addition to charitable donations from over 720 individuals, Seeds of Diversity was fortunate this year to have the support of the following funders :

The Bauta Family Initiative  
on Canadian Seed Security

Carthy Foundation

Canada Gives

Plant a Seed and See What Grows Foundation

Grand River Agricultural Society

Meridian Credit Union donation program

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Canada Summer Jobs

Kindred Credit Union

The Weston Family Foundation

Peterborough K.M. Hunter Foundation

Gore Mutual Insurance

Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Waterloo Region Community Foundation

Blair Family Foundation

Kingston Community Foundation

Rotary Waterloo

Smart Waterloo Region

**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

## Profit and Loss

August 2023 - July 2024

	TOTAL		
	AUG. 2023 - JUL. 2024	AUG. 2022 - JUL. 2023 (PY)	% CHANGE
<b>INCOME</b>			
4001 Membership Fees		2,179.17	-100.00 %
4002 Seed Exchange Directory	3,468.88	3,663.96	-5.32 %
4100 Donations - General Use	74,658.86	59,677.24	25.10 %
4105 Seed Library Donations	5,800.00	9,235.00	-37.20 %
4116 HASP Investment Income		1,185.56	-100.00 %
4118 HASP Unrealized Gain/Loss		-1,998.96	100.00 %
4200 Grants General	5,807.00		
4235 Grants Seed Library	28,086.00	49,345.16	-43.08 %
4240 Youth in Food Systems revenue		4,320.00	-100.00 %
4223 YFS grants	171,640.00	112,391.64	52.72 %
4224 Youth OTF resilient communities grant		38,559.06	-100.00 %
4225 Youth food market	99.00	44.45	122.72 %
<b>Total 4240 Youth in Food Systems revenue</b>	<b>171,739.00</b>	<b>155,315.15</b>	<b>10.57 %</b>
4300 Interest Earnings		132.67	-100.00 %
4510 Book sales	11,065.88	8,085.29	36.86 %
4532 Sales Other	2,356.22	2,286.04	3.07 %
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$302,981.84</b>	<b>\$289,106.28</b>	<b>4.80 %</b>
<b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>			
5220 Cost of Publications	7,213.30	5,339.50	35.09 %
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$7,213.30</b>	<b>\$5,339.50</b>	<b>35.09 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$295,768.54</b>	<b>\$283,766.78</b>	<b>4.23 %</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
5021 Events and Promotion	10.00		
5022 Staff wages	11,551.43	6,976.12	65.59 %
5023 Presentations	300.00	600.00	-50.00 %
5025 Promotional Materials	5,667.55	4,839.30	17.12 %
<b>Total 5021 Events and Promotion</b>	<b>17,528.98</b>	<b>12,415.42</b>	<b>41.19 %</b>
5028 Fundraising (non-donations)	1,068.00	1,052.00	1.52 %
5029 Fundraising (donations)	7,613.95	6,695.75	13.71 %
5030 Office Equipment	391.56	610.00	-35.81 %
5040 Office	12,650.00	12,374.00	2.23 %
5045 Office Networking and Website	2,929.48	2,668.26	9.79 %
5050 Insurance	1,728.72	1,796.40	-3.77 %
5090 Office Supplies	1,238.70	891.69	38.92 %
5110 Postage and Delivery	3,791.16	2,652.16	42.95 %
5114 Seed Directory Mailing		150.00	-100.00 %
5130 Training Board and Staff	254.00	51.43	393.88 %
5133 Administration	10,260.13	9,969.77	2.91 %
5205 Digital Media	10,084.63	7,248.55	39.13 %
5210 Seed Exchange	8,045.22	11,384.51	-29.33 %
5300 Telephones	300.00	300.00	0.00 %
5335 Travel Office Business	128.00		
5341 Board Meeting and AGM Expenses	200.00	267.00	-25.09 %

# Seeds of Diversity Canada

## Profit and Loss

August 2023 - July 2024

	TOTAL		
	AUG. 2023 - JUL. 2024	AUG. 2022 - JUL. 2023 (PY)	% CHANGE
5410 Credit card, PayPal, donation services, bank fees	1,712.61	1,633.39	4.85 %
5450 Interest charges	125.82	21.66	480.89 %
5700 Accounting/Audit/Bookkeeping fees	4,094.00	4,590.00	-10.81 %
5840 School Food Gardens expense		3,828.57	-100.00 %
5842 SFG Materials OTF		5,160.46	-100.00 %
<b>Total 5840 School Food Gardens expense</b>		<b>8,989.03</b>	<b>-100.00 %</b>
5854 Seed Library	3,806.25		
5855 Seed Library Wages	22,919.09	32,764.61	-30.05 %
5856 Seed Library Supplies	1,286.58	2,132.86	-39.68 %
5857 Seed Library Travel		372.23	-100.00 %
5858 Climate Crops	5,497.63	4,077.16	34.84 %
<b>Total 5854 Seed Library</b>	<b>33,509.55</b>	<b>39,346.86</b>	<b>-14.84 %</b>
5860 Youth in Food Systems	290.00		
5861 YFS wages	120,865.31	125,338.87	-3.57 %
5862 YFS materials	12,454.59	2,551.73	388.08 %
5863 YFS services	210.00	1,291.85	-83.74 %
5864 YFS travel	1,120.33	2,145.38	-47.78 %
5865 YFS Nurture	33,094.75	7,235.78	357.38 %
5866 Nurture service fees	101.25		
<b>Total 5865 YFS Nurture</b>	<b>33,196.00</b>	<b>7,235.78</b>	<b>358.78 %</b>
5867 YFS OTF resilient communities		3,900.00	-100.00 %
5868 YFS honoraria	3,302.87	150.00	2,101.91 %
<b>Total 5860 Youth in Food Systems</b>	<b>171,439.10</b>	<b>142,613.61</b>	<b>20.21 %</b>
5895 HST non-refundable	2,146.02	2,847.45	-24.63 %
Legal and professional fees	12.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$291,251.63</b>	<b>\$270,568.94</b>	<b>7.64 %</b>
OTHER INCOME			
4600 Dividend income - investment		2,601.39	-100.00 %
4601 Interest income - investment		2,776.97	-100.00 %
4602 Gain/Loss on sale of securities		651.76	-100.00 %
4603 Unrealized gain/loss on investment		-176.04	100.00 %
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,854.08</b>	<b>-100.00 %</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$4,516.91</b>	<b>\$19,051.92</b>	<b>-76.29 %</b>

# Seeds of Diversity Canada

## Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1007 BMO Investorline cash	74,024.07
1016 CIBC Account	963.00
1106 BMO Savings	165,194.12
1108 BMO	-543.18
1111 YNCU Cash Account	5,149.17
1115 Investment - Cash balance	9,805.80
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$254,592.98</b>
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1130 Accounts Receivable (A/R)	11,582.57
<b>Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)</b>	<b>\$11,582.57</b>
1112 Petty Cash Waterloo Office	251.28
1142 Inventory Books	4,719.80
1190 Prepaid expenses	1,038.24
1400 Due From Unrestricted Fund	-83,692.10
1401 HASP Due From Restricted Fund	-3,103.72
1402 Seed Library Due From Unrestricted	83,692.10
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$269,081.15</b>
Non-current Assets	
1014 HASP Investments	35,934.52
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>\$35,934.52</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$305,015.67</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2231 Accounts Payable (A/P)	4,862.24
<b>Total Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	<b>\$4,862.24</b>
2152 YFS grants unrecognized income	13,408.36
2153 SL grants unrecognized income	84,307.00
2210 GST/HST Payable	-106.55
2223 GST paid	0.59
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$102,471.64</b>
Non-current Liabilities	
2140 Accrued Liabilities	3,500.00
2225 HST/GST Refundable	-4,934.24
2400 Due to Restricted Funds	-3,103.72
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -4,537.96</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$97,933.68</b>

# Seeds of Diversity Canada

## Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2024

	TOTAL
Equity	
3603 Seed Library Fund	83,692.60
3604 HASP Fund	42,635.51
3605 Accumulated Surplus	57,185.05
Retained Earnings	19,051.92
Profit for the year	4,516.91
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$207,081.99</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$305,015.67</b>

# Annual Report 2024 Financial Narrative

## Seeds of Diversity Canada

With respect to the fiscal year ending July 31, 2024.

### **Seed Exchange Directory**

This revenue is the amount that members chose to pay for a printed copy of our member seed exchange (\$15 each). It is not a round number because of U.S. currency conversion. The corresponding expense includes the printing and mailing, 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. About 1/3 of our members add a charitable donation to their membership renewal every year. Thanks to everyone who made charitable donations last year!

### **Sales, Cost of Publications**

Seeds of Diversity does not sell seeds, but it sells books, garlic bulbils, and occasionally a few minor materials left over from programs. In past years these revenues have covered over half of our office expenses, allowing donations to support our programs.

### **Events and Promotion**

Seedy Saturdays and Seedy Sundays are our best way to reach thousands of gardeners and seed savers across the country. Our supports included networking organizers, producing online presentations, providing honoraria to speakers, and sending over 3000 packets of surplus seeds to about 170 seed-swap events.

### **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.