

CanAgPlus Board of Directors 2022-23



DENIS DESJARDINS – Denis is the co-founder and President of Desjardins Seed Farm Ltd. He and his brother got their start by joining the family business as partners in 1994. Today they grow processing potatoes for McCain Foods Canada and Cavendish Farms across 3000 acres of farmland. The operation has earned top 10 awards from Cavendish Farms in 2020 and from McCain Foods in 2019, 2017 and 2015. During his time in the industry he’s lent his expertise to help negotiate the acquisition of Bon Accord Seed Farm from the province of New Brunswick to Potatoes New Brunswick (PNB), as well as helping implement through legislature a Potato virus Y (PVY) virus cap for potatoes in New Brunswick. Desjardins currently serves on several committees such as the PNB Safety Net Committee, the PNB Processing Negotiation Committee and the National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC). He’s previously served as the PNB chairman, as well as on the Advisory Council to the New Brunswick’s Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries as a member.

ALVIN KEENAN – Alvin Keenan, along with his brother Ray, owns and operates Rollo Bay Holdings where they grow, package, and market fresh potatoes to retailers and food service companies nationally and internationally. They are one of the largest agriculture entities in Eastern PEI and employ 40 people year-round. Rollo Bay Holdings was one of the leaders in fresh pack operations in advocating for food safety certification. Alvin has served his community and the agriculture industry in many capacities; currently he is Chairman of the PEI Grain Elevators Corporation, and Past President of the Canadian Horticultural Council. He has served as President of the PEI Federation of Agriculture, the PEI Farm Practices Review Board, Director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and Director of the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council. Alvin has served on the CanAgPlus Board since 2018.



STEPHANIE LARIVIERE – With over 23 years’ experience, Stephanie has been involved in all facets of the produce industry. Stephanie currently holds the role of Regulatory Affairs Manager for Erie James Ltd., a packer/marketer/shipper operation in Leamington, and Sunsation Acres Ltd., a greenhouse growing operation in Kingsville, Ontario. Stephanie received the Mary Fitzgerald Award from the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) in 2013 and was named one of Greenhouse Canada’s Top 10 Under 40. Stephanie has been involved in numerous industry committees throughout her career, including a directorship with the Ontario Greenhouse Marketers Association. She also serves as Vice Chair of the CPMA Food Safety Committee and has been a grower representative for Food Safety for the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers for many years.

IAN MCDONELL – Ian has been a CanAgPlus director for the past two years with a keen interest in the development of a Strategic Plan for the organization. He has more than 30 years of experience working in the agriculture sector, in particular the development of standards for phytosanitary measures. As Executive Director of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) for seventeen years, he led groups of stakeholders (government, private companies, farmers, producer and environmental organizations) in phytosanitary standard setting and for the creation of a dispute settlement mechanism to resolve bilateral differences regarding phytosanitary measures applied under the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). Since retirement, he’s worked part-time as a consultant, conducting an evaluation of private food safety standards on agricultural producers in sixteen Caribbean countries, as well as conducting Integrated Pest Management training in Honduras.



JODY MOTT – Since 2014, Jody Mott has served as Executive Director of the Holland Marsh Growers’ Association, representing root crop producers and packers federally, provincially and municipally. She is Chair of the Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee for the Fruit and Vegetables Growers of Canada and Vice-chair of the Vegetable Working Group since 2016. Jody has been a director on the CanAgPlus Board since 2016. She has served on several not-for-profit boards, including the Bradford Board of Trade, the Greater Golden Horseshoe Alliance and the Bradford Minor Hockey Association. She has assisted many farmers implementing a food safety program. Jody has been involved in a wide range of projects to promote the interests of farmers and is passionate in her commitment to advancing agriculture.

ELIZABETH PATTILLO – – For the past fifteen years, Beth has been working as Food Safety Manager and Agritourism Manager at Noggins Corner Farm II Ltd in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. She has an extensive background in planning, developing and implementing horticulture-based quality assurance programs. Prior to her current role, she held a variety of positions including Executive Director for the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers’ Association and Chair of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA). She was involved in the founding of CanAgPlus in 2012 and with the integration of the Repacking and Wholesaling food safety standard into CanadaGAP. Beth has also been active as a member of the CPMA Food Safety Committee, the Government Issues Management Committee, and CPMA Past Chairs Advisory Council. Currently, she is a director on the CanAgPlus Board and chairs the Technical Advisory Committee.





SUSAN RANCK – Susan Ranck founded Ranck & Associates, LLC in February 2012 after almost 20 years in the food manufacturing industry. She has since focused efforts on Organic Systems, Good Agricultural Practices and Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) programs as a program developer, program evaluator and GFSI benchmark leader. Susan has served as Director on the CanAgPlus Board since 2020. As a small business owner, she focuses on fresh produce operations, working with regulatory and GFSI-recognized programs to implement food safety in a manner that also benefits the grower. She has a Bachelor of Science from The Pennsylvania State University in Agricultural Sciences and a Master of Agriculture from Texas A & M University in Poultry Science. She is also a lead instructor for the US Produce Safety Rule and has worked with *Safe Foods for Canadians* specifically related to cross border transit of agricultural products.

SCOTT WRIGHT – Scott Wright is the director of the University of Saskatchewan’s Livestock and Forage centre of Excellence. Scott previously held several positions with Star Group, which is dedicated to the procurement, sales and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables. He has also previously worked in government for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Science and Technology Branch, Agri-Environment Services Branch, Research Branch and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration), Saskatchewan Agriculture and Alberta Agriculture. Scott holds Bachelor, Masters and PhD. degrees in agriculture. Scott has served a total of six years on the CanAgPlus Board.



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