

CanAgPlus Board of Directors 2026



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 3500 acres of farmland. The operation has earned top 10 awards from Cavendish Farms in 2021 and 2019 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 previously served on the PNB Safety Net Committee and the PNB Processing Negotiation Committee and currently serves on the National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC). He's also 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. He has served on the CanAgPlus Board since 2021.

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.



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 – Beth is currently the Food Safety & OHS Manager for Noggins Corner Farm II Ltd., and also involved with Kings Produce Ltd. Beth was involved in the food safety file with both the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC previously CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) for many years: notably, during both the development of the on-farm food safety program and manual and during the establishment of CanAgPlus. In 2008, she served as CPMA's Chair of the Board, and she continues to be an active member of the Past Chairs Advisory Council. As an agricultural microbiologist, on-farm food safety has long been Beth's passion. She is also a proud "Grammie Beth" to 15 incredible grandchildren and volunteers with the several trails and gardening organizations in Nova Scotia.

SUSAN RANCK – Susan Ranck is the founder and president of Ranck & Associates, LLC, established in 2012. With nearly 20 years of experience in food manufacturing, she specializes in food safety, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance. Her career began with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), where she worked with disease monitoring and control in market cattle. Her experience in industry includes meat and poultry, combinable crops and produce. She has served as an educator, training small businesses on HACCP implementation. Ms. Ranck holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences from Penn State University and a Master of Agriculture degree from Texas A&M University. Additionally, she is a Registered Sanitarian and has been involved in implementation in USDA, FDA and CFIA programs intended to build food safety throughout industry. Susan was previously a benchmark leader with GFSI and has served on the CanAgPlus Board of Directors since 2020.





JULIAN SARRAINO – Julian Sarraïno is co-Chief Executive Officer of Fresh Taste Produce. Julian's experience is vast within the fresh produce sector. He is actively involved in growing, packaging, processing, marketing, logistics and food safety. Julian is currently a Director on the Ontario Produce Marketing Association Board and was previously a Director on the Fruit & Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation Board. Julian is also on the Canadian Produce Marketing Association Promotions Committee and the International Fresh Produce Association Supply Chain Council. Julian is a recipient of the OPMA Fresh Award, and the Produce Business Top 40 under 40 award. Julian has been a director on the CanAgPlus Board since 2023.

VICTORIA STAMPER – A graduate of the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing, and growing up in London, Ontario, Victoria is no stranger to farms, but her career took her down the path of stainless steel distribution until she joined the potato industry in April 2022 as General Manager of the United Potato Growers of Canada (UPGC). Although quite new to the agriculture industry, Victoria brings many years of supply and demand management experience to the role. She also has familiarity with CanadaGAP from her time with a flexible packaging company leading their team to put in place a Food Safety program. She has served over 10 years on elementary and high school Governing Boards and as committee Secretary-Treasurer for her local Scouts chapter. Victoria has been actively working with the UPGC through their Board strategic planning process and Board Governance. As a CanAgPlus director, Victoria would bring feedback from the growers she travels to see, not only in her home province of Quebec, but across Canada.



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 on the CanAgPlus Board since 2017 and is Chair of the CanAgPlus Board since 2024.

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