

Unleashing the Value of Industrial Hemp

Canadian Hemp

One word describes Canadian hemp: opportunity. With numerous commercial advancements being made right here in Alberta, industrial hemp is a crop many have their eye on.

Hemp is a non-genetically modified crop that has been used for thousands of years to make paper, rope, clothing and food.

Canada is a global leader in hemp production and a large hemp product exporter. Canadian producers have gained extensive experience in growing this crop since the introduction of our Industrial Hemp Regulations in 1998.

Hemp is a sustainable resource, rapidly renewable due to its fast-growing nature. Shorter hemp varieties are often grown for seed, whereas the taller varieties, which can reach up to four metres, are most often grown for fibre — that's a lot of biomass in a growing season!

Hemp is lightweight, has high tensile strength and is very absorbent. It can be used in automotive products, construction materials or textiles and makes great erosion control and animal bedding among many other things.

As an effective, easily digested and absorbed food, hemp is also a good source of protein, fiber and essential fatty acids (omegas 3, 6, and 9).

Hemp is an environmentally sustainable crop, requiring few chemicals and pesticides and naturally competes in displacing weeds.

The Food and Bio-Processing Branch

The Food and Bio-Processing Branch works with companies that transform hemp into food and biomass fibre products. Along with our many partners, we provide services that fall into three broad areas: business, technology and information services.

Through our business development team, state-of-the-art processing equipment and team of scientists, engineers and technicians at the Bio Processing Innovation Centre and Food Processing Development Centre, we have a multitude of skills to help you with your commercial hemp venture.

Alberta company success stories to date include:

- Canada's first publicly traded 56,000-square foot grain and fibre processing facility
- Hemp hurd panels installed in Alberta's first net-zero office building
- Producing non-woven composite mats for major automotive companies
- Supplying innovative land reclamation products in various locations around the globe

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- Using hemp fibre for concrete and reinforcement, hempcrete and other green building and industrial uses

More commercial advancements in food, cosmetics, textiles, sustainable green building materials and green products are on their way!

Let us help you connect the pieces to grow the industrial hemp industry in Alberta.

The Biomaterials Team, Bio-Industrial Opportunities Section has the expertise, experience and connections to help your bio-based ingredients, products, services, or technology business achieve scale-up and commercialization.

The Biomaterials Team works with you to facilitate the growth of industrial hemp industry in Alberta through the following services:

- Business planning areas such as production, feasibility, market research, specialized information, assistance with site location selection in Alberta including connection to regional economic development networks, access to funding and human resources
- From supply chain logistics to regulatory issues to market access and more, we can help you identify and address obstacles and opportunities for your commercial success.

We maintain close working relationships with people across Alberta's emerging

bioeconomy, including municipalities, research organizations, growers, regulators and private sector. We connect their knowledge and expertise to your needs and help build partnerships and collaborations.

Our team is a champion for Alberta's bioeconomy. We develop and share knowledge, expertise and specialized information to support its growth and success.



We invite you to learn more about us.

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry Bio-Industrial Opportunities Section

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