

2023 CNLA Provincial Representative Report to MBNLA

November 4, 2023

The CNLA is the umbrella association tying all the Provincial associations together. There are nearly 4,000 green profession businesses that belong to the provincial associations across the country and the purpose of CNLA is to align and prioritize the agendas of the provinces so that we truly work as a team. The vision of both associations is identical. We exist to grow a prosperous, professional, ethical, valued and recognized profession. There is a lot of great work going on across the country and as a member of Manitoba Nursery Landscape Association (MBNLA), you are automatically a member of the CNLA.

In 2023, CNLA business was finally back to normal starting with our winter meeting in Victoria in February. For the first time I was able to participate in the winter meetings thanks to Red River College allowing me a work leave (as it helps cross promote the professionalism of the Landscape Horticulture trade). The winter meetings are even more comprehensive than the already extensive summer meetings as this is when the AGM and elections are held. I am excited to work with CNLA's new President Bill Hardy from BC. Bill and I have a long history, having first met him in 2008 at the preliminary Red Seal Landscape Meetings. The agenda for the semiannual meetings is more than 300 pages long, which should give you an idea of how much CNLA is doing on behalf of our profession. As usual, Member Services continues to source programs that meet all CNLA's criteria. We approved a company safety program from Know More Hazard that should appeal to most landscape companies and would certainly help a new start up landscape operation. We also introduced an agreement with Lenovo computers that can appeal to everyone in our profession.

MBNLA was also host to the CNLA summer meetings held in Winnipeg in August which allowed us to introduce everyone to your new Executive Director Marcel. It was a great opportunity to show our stakeholders, executives, and CNLA staff what Manitoba has to offer. In exchange, they presented a great national awards dinner. Once again thank you to all our MBNLA members that participated and contributed. It was incredibly gratifying as your representative to see such engagement. The meeting business included administrative issues like cleaning up the language of the travel policy, but also addressed national issues like CEBA debt repayment and looking at carbon tax exemptions for greenhouse and nursery operations. We also received updates on CNLA's advocacy regarding the high insurance rates on behalf of snow contractors. Negotiations such as this help us to gain an audience with government officials regarding the significance of ornamental horticulture to the public and to the overall economy. Having said that, we are still trying to figure out what the various governments are expecting from our members as they continue to roll out tree planting campaigns with minimal conversation with our stakeholders. As the common language continues to evolve around climate change, our opportunities to contribute alongside government will benefit our reputation to the public in general.

I would like to thank all our current chairs that participate on National committees and commodity groups. I am very proud of our current group of leaders and hope that they continue to contribute and share their knowledge and opportunities with the MBNLA member groups that they represent. For more information about the CNLA / MBNLA relationship and the representative's role, please reach out to me.

CNLA report respectfully submitted by Guy Dowhy RSE, CLHM, CLHT