



## Industrial Hemp: A Canadian Perspective Speech Abstract February 2020

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The Canadian hemp industry was re-established in 1998 with the Government of Canada implementing the Industrial Hemp Regulation. Over the past 21 years, the industry has established a strong presence in the food sector, which has been its primary source of revenue.

The Canadian hemp industry has steadily grown to its current size of about 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) with total industry sales of about \$140 million based on producing hemp seed for sowing and food processing. The industry is now expanding, based on new revenue streams from livestock feed, fibre processing, and fractions (cannabinoid extraction).

Canada's current expertise in the hemp food sector has been supported by a strong regulatory structure, good manufacturing processes, and long-term sales relationships – creating the economic base of the industry. The Canadian industry is seeking registration of hemp seed and its derivatives as livestock feed ingredients with the Government of Canada – creating a cash market for grain and processing byproducts. New investments in hemp fibre decortication and value added processing are flowing into the industry – developing a national market for hemp straw. A combination of regulatory relaxation and new investments in cannabinoid extraction are taking place – creating a new hemp-based industry.

Moving from 1 revenue stream to 4 revenue streams is fundamental to the expected growth of the Canadian hemp industry. This growth is expected to result in a 5-year expansion to 450,000 acres (182,000 hectares) and C\$ 1 billion total industry sales.

Food, Feed, Fibre and Fractions – the four faces of Hemp!