



## PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B9

March 17, 2009

Greg Marshall  
President  
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS)  
100 - 2400 College Avenue  
REGINA SK S4P 1C8

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am writing in response to your letter of February 18, 2009, originally sent to the Honourable Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Agriculture, regarding the level of communication with the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS).

Let me begin by congratulating you on your position as the new President of APAS. There are both challenges and opportunities facing our agriculture sector.

I assure you that the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes and has been working to address the challenges and concerns raised in your letter. Many of these issues have either already been addressed by this government, or are the subject of the upcoming budget.

On February 26, 2009, this government announced a \$71 million Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program. Cattle producers are eligible for a \$40 per head payment for all beef breeding cows and bred beef heifers owned as of January 1, 2009. Hog producers will be eligible for \$20 per market hog and \$10 per head for all iso-weanlings, weanlings and feeder hogs produced between July 1, 2008, and January 31, 2009.

We are asking the federal government to come to the table and top-up this program with their 60 per cent share, or provide some other form of meaningful support.

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This fiscal year, the our government provided \$153.8 million for property tax rebate programs across the province in the 2008-09 budget. This includes an increase to the education property tax credit on agricultural land from 38 per cent to 47 per cent. We are committed to increasing this rebate to 80 per cent by the fourth year of our term. We are also working on a long-term plan to fund education in Saskatchewan.

The Crop Insurance Program is being improved in 2009. In 2009, we are implementing 12 of the 16 recommendations from the Crop Insurance Review. We are slightly increasing coverage and decreasing premiums, despite lower grain prices this year. The new program features will result in an additional financial commitment of \$20 million by our government this year. This is over and above the additional \$42 million we contributed to Crop Insurance in 2008. Our government's contribution to the program in 2009 is the largest ever made by a Saskatchewan Government.

The Government of Saskatchewan takes the advice and concerns of our producers and producer groups very seriously. We will continue working to ensure that provincial agriculture programming and support meet the needs of our producers.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall  
Premier

cc Honourable Bob Bjornerud  
Minister of Agriculture

