

APAS in Action • March/April 2018

APAS AND CFA SEND OPEN LETTER TO MPS TO PASS TRANSPORT BILL C-49 WITH AMENDMENTS

As MPs consider the Senate amendments to Bill C-49, APAS has signed an open letter along with the CFA and other farm groups urging its passage.

The amendments give the Canadian Transportation Agency more authority to investigate, and act, when major delays are observed. They also allow farmers access to “inter-switching,” which gives them more competitive shipping options.

There is still a serious backlog of grain on the Prairies. For the second time in less than five years, grain elevators are overflowing with quality product that can't be shipped to customers overseas. Rail cars aren't available to carry the grain to port. If grain doesn't move, farmers don't get paid. This leads to a cash-flow crunch and enormous stress due to systemic flaws that are outside a farmer's control. APAS is also calling for the railways to pay all demurrage costs charged to farmers as a result of the current rail transport backlog. Read more about APAS' demurrage fee request [here](#).



On March 19, APAS Vice President Ian Boxall travelled to Ottawa to speak to the House of Commons Ag Committee about his experience as a grain farmer during this current rail transportation backlog. His four minute presentation has been widely shared and viewed online. Watch it [here](#).

APAS POLICY PRIORITIES CONFERENCE

APAS held its Policy Priorities for Agriculture Conference on March 26 and 27 in Saskatoon. APAS reps toured the Grain and Innovation Centre, the Food Industry and Development Centre and the

Synchrotron, as well as watched the documentary 'Food Evolution.'

To view the presentations from the APAS Policy Priorities for Agriculture Conference, [click here](#).

At the conference, a new APAS policy committee was announced. The Rural Life committee will handle issues such as public trust, education curriculum, broadband internet, the Temporary Foreign Worker program, ag training certification, and health and education services. The Economic Trade and Strategic Growth committee will now be known as the Economic and Trade committee.

For the updated list of APAS policy committees and priorities for 2018 [click here](#).

Thank you to everyone who attended and our sponsors, the Saskatchewan Pork Development Board, Access Communications, Sask Wheat, Peavey Mart, D3H Hotels, Bioriginal, Sasktel, Saskatchewan Bison Association, Sask Flax, and the Saskatchewan Egg Producers.

APAS PRESENTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

- On March 12, APAS Executive met with Federal Ministers Hon. Dominic LeBlanc (Fisheries and Oceans) and Hon. Ralph Good (Public Safety) to discuss amendments to Canada's Fisheries Act
- On March 19, APAS VP Ian Boxall appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, which held an emergency meeting on grain transportation (see link on page one)
- On March 20, APAS Executive members met with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to present APAS's recommendations to the Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy. Read the APAS Submission [here](#).
- On March 21, APAS President Todd Lewis appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, which is studying the potential impact of climate change on Canada's agriculture and forestry sectors.

SARM AGM

APAS was pleased to be asked to present an update on the policy issues APAS is working on to the SARM AGM on March 16.

APAS Representative and former board member Arlynn Kurtz also spoke about the issue of trespassing. Watch his comments [here](#).



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The APAS Prairie Agriculture Policy Priorities Conference was the last official event for the 2018 APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program. Thank you to Jessica Raycraft (RM #380), Adrienne Ivey (RM #246), Megz Reynolds (RM #228), Lynn Crossman (RM #520), Ashten Douhaniuk (RM #184), Karlah Rae Rudolph (RM #138), Matthew Hunter (RM #95), Seraina Giovanoli (RM #395) and Dennis Clarke (RM #185) for joining us and best of luck. Thank you to Don Ross for coordinating the program, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and FarmLead for sponsoring the program.



NEW MEMBERS

- Brokenshell #68
- Wellington #97
- Victory #226
- Willner #253
- Insinger #275
- Hillsdale #440
- Meota #468

This brings the total number of APAS member RMs to 130, or about 44% of the total number of RMs in Saskatchewan. Welcome to APAS!

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Olivia Zuck is APAS' new Young Agricultural Producer Researcher and will be working with the Young Agricultural Producers Committee. Olivia is from Regina and graduated from the U of R with her B.A in Geography in three years. Olivia can be reached at ozuck@apas.ca.

SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS' VOICE

...is growing!

APAS EXPANDING MAGAZINE

APAS' quarterly magazine is expanding to bring stories about Saskatchewan producers, important agricultural issues, rural life, agronomy, business and APAS activities directly to every farm mailbox in Saskatchewan starting this summer - almost doubling its circulation to more than 35,000!

To read past issues of Saskatchewan Farmers Voice, sign up for an electronic copy or learn more about advertising click [here](#).

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

[Yuen's Family Fashions in Langenburg](#) is now offering 25% off all regular priced workwear to ratepayers of APAS member RMs. Simply show your APAS member card to receive the special APAS rate.

APAS IN THE NEWS

- ['Ag industry pleased with Canada's CPTPP signing'](#) - Farms.com
- ['New grain bag recycling program launching in Sask'](#) - Global
- ['"We apologize": CN and CP reiterate recovery plan amid continued grain backlog'](#) - Financial Post
- ['Ag industry demands action to prevent future shipping problems'](#) - Tisdale Recorder
- ['Railways should pay demurrage fees, says APAS president'](#) - Realagriculture.com
- ['APAS finds interest in farm input price survey'](#) - Western Producer
- ['Sask producers discuss backlog solutions with CN Rail'](#) - CJME
- ['CP Rail conductors and locomotive engineers authorize strike amid grain backlog'](#) - Financial Post
- ['Sask. farm groups call provincial budget 'fair''](#) - FarmNewsNow.com
- ['Saskatchewan farmers want compensation for rail woes'](#) - BNN
- ['Sask. budget supports ag sector'](#) - Farms.com
- ['Concerns mount over potential Canadian Pacific strike'](#) - Global Regina

UPCOMING DATES

- 2018 APAS AGM - November 27-29, Regina

APAS in Action is the monthly e-newsletter detailing the activities of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan's general farm organization. Subscribe here: <http://www.apas.ca/apas-in-action>. If you have questions about or wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact the APAS office at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774 ext. 6.