



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Ministry of
Highways and
Infrastructure
Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

July 7, 2014

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Box 4752
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email of June 11, 2014 requesting a response to Resolution 12, which was passed at your 2014 Annual General Meeting. As the new Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The resolution addressed your organizations concern over the control of leafy spurge in the right-of-way of provincial highways and other Ministry sites. The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) is aware of invasive weeds on its property and is taking a balanced and strategic approach within the context of the current budget and other operational needs to control them. MHI employs an integrated weed control program with a combination of mowing and herbicidal treatments contracted on an annual basis. We have also attempted spot control through hand-picking and the use of biological control agents.

MHI works closely with rural municipalities, land owners, local municipal weed inspectors and various interest groups to coordinate weed control efforts where possible. We are continually looking for ways to improve our effectiveness at controlling invasive weeds. MHI is currently evaluating its practices and priorities to ensure they remain in alignment with the recently enacted *Weed Control Act*.

With respect to leafy spurge, MHI is aware of the difficulty to control this weed and that it has been appearing along provincial rights-of-way. *The Weed Control Act* recognizes that leafy spurge is too widespread in the province to achieve complete eradication, and as such, it has been classified as a noxious rather than a prohibited weed with the corresponding level of control required. MHI is taking active, necessary steps to contain and control leafy spurge, in balance with treatments for other Noxious and Prohibited weeds on its property.

Chad MacPherson

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I appreciate you bringing your organization's concerns to my attention. I want to assure you that we take these issues seriously. We certainly welcome any suggestions and are willing to participate in any discussions with stakeholders on the issue of weed control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Heppner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nancy Heppner
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

cc: Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
Nithi Govindasamy, Deputy Minister, Highways and Infrastructure