



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Agriculture

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

June 29, 2016

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

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your letter outlining the resolutions from the recent Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) annual general meeting held on June 14, 2016. In respect to the resolutions, the Ministry has the following responses to those areas that are specifically addressed to the Ministry or that fall within the scope of Ministry authority:

Resolution 1: That the SSGA lobby the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to offer fire insurance coverage for grass.

Response: In this regard, SCIC has been working with Saskatchewan forage and livestock groups to review forage insurance programming. As part of that review, fire insurance will be examined.

Resolution 2: That SSGA encourage Saskatchewan Agriculture to recognize the importance of flood irrigated projects and work with irrigators to encourage their continuation as a means to support livestock feed production in the southwest of the province.

Response: The Ministry supports sustainable irrigation in the province. The Ministry has been involved in discussions with the federal government and irrigation groups regarding the divestiture of six irrigation projects in the southwest. Until the federal government confirms the details of their divestiture plans, the Ministry and the Water Security Agency will continue to monitor the situation and maintain open lines of communication with both the federal government and irrigation stakeholders.

Resolution 3: That the SSGA lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to have a licensed cougar hunting season in the province and to allow the use of dogs if they wish.

Response: Hunting regulations in Saskatchewan fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Environment.

Resolution 4: That the SSGA lobby the Government of Saskatchewan, SAMA and SARM to review their taxation and fee assessment policies for agricultural land taken out of production by large scale flooding.

Response: The Ministry of Agriculture does not hold regulatory authority in the taxation of land. This issue is best referred to the Ministry of Government Relations.

Resolution 5: That the Canadian beef industry leadership adopt and hasten the deployment of E+V Technology in carcass grading.

Response: The Ministry encourages industry led initiatives that improve the profitability of that industry.

Resolution 6: That the SSGA lobby potential parties about the opportunity that grasslands and cattle grazing have regarding carbon sequestration and the need for additional research to define its value.

Response: The Ministry of Agriculture supports more research to define the value of carbon sequestration on land under permanent cover for grazing.

Resolution 7: That the SSGA continue to be part of the consultation process for developing the regulations contained within *The Provincial Lands Act*.

Response: The Ministries of Agriculture and Environment began the process of modernizing *The Provincial Lands Act* and the Provincial Lands Regulations in 2013. This process continued into 2016 with the SSGA being one of the many stakeholders that were consulted. The Ministry is committed to holding more consultations with industry stakeholders that are expected to occur late this summer (2016).

Resolution 8: That the SSGA lobby the Saskatchewan Government to retain the fuel tax exemption.

Mr. Chad Macpherson

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Response: Since last year's provincial Budget, the government of Saskatchewan is facing an almost \$1 billion drop in non-renewable resource revenue.

Given the current financial challenges in Saskatchewan, all programs are being reviewed. All Ministries are examining expenditures to ensure the sustainability of government programs.

Sincerely,



Lyle Stewart  
Minister of Agriculture

cc: Honourable Herb Cox, Minister of the Environment  
Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Government Relations  
Honourable Kevin Doherty, Minister of Finance