



2017-268

**JUL 12 2017**

Chad MacPherson, General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
([ssga@sasktel.net](mailto:ssga@sasktel.net))

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email enclosing the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) 104<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting resolutions. I am pleased to provide the following response:

**Resolution #3: Random testing of elk and deer for TB**

The Ministry of Environment has been following the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) investigation regarding bovine tuberculosis (TB) found in a beef cow in south east Alberta to determine implications for wildlife in Saskatchewan. The CFIA investigation has concluded that all infected animals were on one premise and the strain was a Mexican one, indicating it was likely imported. In fall 2016, Alberta did significant testing for bovine TB on animals submitted to the Chronic Wasting Disease testing program in southeastern Alberta, including Canadian Forces Base Suffield. No samples tested positive for TB.

The ministry is not initiating a bovine TB testing program for wild elk and deer in 2017. This decision is based on the results of the recent CFIA investigation combined with the fact that bovine TB is a rare disease in wild populations. However, the ministry maintains a contract with Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and will test any wildlife that is suspected to be diseased to determine the cause of death.

**Resolution #12: Recognize and enable conservation banking as part of a mitigation plan**

We appreciate SSGA's interest in innovative conservation approaches that support responsible development across industry sectors. Market-based approaches such as habitat offsets are a promising option and could generate incentives for natural land conservation and provide a range of environmental benefits. The ministry is in the process of developing a habitat mitigation framework and tools that could support mitigation by non-agricultural industries in Saskatchewan and habitat offset markets for agriculture. Results from this initial testing have been promising and the ministry looks forward to working with SSGA and other partners as we assess its potential to support conservation and responsible development at a broader scale.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to respond to your resolutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Scott Moe', written over a blue line.

Scott Moe  
Minister of Environment