

Dear Mr. MacPherson,

As Shadow Minister's for Agriculture and Agri-Food, we'd like to thank you for your correspondence concerning the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's resolutions from your Annual General Meeting.

After careful consideration of the resolutions under federal jurisdiction we're pleased to provide the following responses to Resolutions 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12 and 13.

**Resolution #1**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSGA lobby to have funding included for multi grazing species.

**Resolution #2**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to invest a significant portion of the Nature Fund into styles of programming based on fixed term, renewable agreements, that leverage existing habitat protection services that the ranching community provides and will therefore be more efficient in achieving ecosystem-scale conservation.

We support in principle these resolutions. As we develop our platform for the next federal election commitments in funding will be an ongoing process. We believe agriculture policies and, in turn, funding commitments must be developed in consultation with agricultural producers and groups like the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association.

**Resolution #4**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the SSGA lobby Health Canada in opposition to the current front of package label proposal.

We support this resolution and believe that Canadians should be provided with scientifically accurate information to help them make informed decisions about the food they eat. The direction taken by Health Canada, under the management of the Liberal Party, on the current Front-of-Package (FOP) labelling proposal raises many concerns. Hundreds of doctors and health professionals have said these proposed changes to not take into account the latest science on saturated fat and sodium. They fear these proposed changes will confuse consumers and will actually negatively impact their health.

In addition, we have concerns the Liberal's ideological direction of FOP labelling and revisions to the Canada Food Guide are detrimental to our livestock industry and diminish the importance of animal protein as a part of a healthy diet.

Furthermore, the Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement and Cost-Benefit Analysis done by Health Canada ignores relevant data provided by industry who have called for a more transparent process in determining the cost to industry. We stand with those stakeholders who have called for more evidence-based data and request clarification and a more thorough explanation of Health Canada's analysis prior to publication in Part II of the Canada Gazette.

We must also take into consideration the trade implications this policy has with our trading partners. The United States' most recent National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers lists Canada's FOP labelling proposal as a "technical barrier to trade" and given the current climate of trade negotiations between our two countries with NAFTA, it would be wise to not add additional issues of concern at the negotiating table.

#### **Resolution #7**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to not allow the use of the terms meat and hamburger on the labels of lab and plant based protein products marketed in Canada.

We support this resolution and encourage measures to ensure accurate labelling of ingredients and note the current definition of meat is specific and does not include lab and plant based protein products. We will continue to monitor innovative developments by industry as well as the regulatory positions of our trading partners.

#### **Resolution #8**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to expedite the ratification of CPTPP to ensure Canada is one of the first six countries to ratify the CPTPP.

We support this resolution and as you may know it was a Conservative Government that negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. We have been pushing the current government to immediately work on ratifying the trade deal. Before the summer recess on two occasions our party sought unanimous consent on motions to adopt Bill C-79 (*An Act to implement the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership between Canada, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam*) immediately and pass through all stages of the House of Commons. Unfortunately, the motions did not receive unanimous consent.

*John Barlow*  
Shadow Minister  
for Agriculture and Agri-Food



*Luc Berthold*  
Ministre du cabinet fantôme  
pour l'agriculture et l'agroalimentaire

Now, Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer has called for an emergency summer session of Parliament to ratify CPTPP immediately. We will continue to work with the government to make sure this vital trade agreement is a priority especially with the uncertainty surrounding NAFTA.

**Resolution #12**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to renew and expand SARPAL funding beyond 2020.

**Resolution #13**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSGA lobby the Government of Canada to fund a conservation business plan to strategically target conservation investment to further enhance SARPAL programming and to meet priority action measures.

We support in principle these resolutions. The SARPAL initiative is part of the National Conservation Plan launched by the previous Conservative government in 2014 and focuses on working with the agricultural community to facilitate recovery of species at risk on agricultural lands. We believe agriculture policies and, in turn, funding commitments must be developed in consultation with agricultural producers and groups like the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association.

We're committed to working with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association on these resolutions and on other priorities going forward. We value the livestock industry and recognize the immense contribution the sector has on the Canadian economy and the role it plays in rural communities.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Barlow in black ink.

John Barlow, M.P.  
Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food

Handwritten signature of Luc Berthold in black ink.

Luc Berthold, M.P.  
Ministre du cabinet fantôme pour l'agriculture  
et l'agroalimentaire