



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

OCT 11 2018

Mr. Chad MacPherson
General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
ssga@sasktel.net

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email message of June 14, 2018, with which you attached a copy of the resolutions passed at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's Annual General Meeting on June 12. I regret the delay in responding.

I note that resolutions 2, 12 and 13 relate to the mandate of Environment and Climate Change Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a response to those resolutions.

With respect to Resolution 2, as you know, the Government of Canada committed, in Budget 2018, to further investments to help grow a healthy and sustainable clean economy. This includes investing \$1.3 billion over five years in protecting Canada's ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity, including species at risk. This historic investment in nature conservation in Canada will provide an opportunity for the Government to collaborate with not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous communities, provincial and territorial governments, corporations and other partners to create a true legacy for future generations. As part of the \$1.3-billion investment, the Canada Nature Fund will provide federal funding of \$500 million over five years to create a \$1-billion fund in partnership with corporate, not-for-profit, provincial, territorial and other partners, with a primarily focus on protecting spaces and species at risk.

The Canada Nature Fund will function as a multi-stream contribution fund. Funding will be allocated to a wide range of partners, either directly for identified federal priorities, or through an application-based process where merit criteria are considered. Support for partners within the ranching community to implement beneficial management practices that maintain and conserve important wildlife habitat would fall within the scope of the Fund.

While the exact parameters of the Canada Nature Fund are still being finalized, interested organizations are encouraged to monitor Environment and Climate Change Canada's website and social media in order to stay informed on the latest information about this investment.

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Regarding Resolution 12, the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) program was introduced in 2014–2015 to explore and support non-regulatory protection and conservation of species at risk and their habitat located on private agricultural lands through a collaborative approach. The emphasis on collaboration and partnership has been critical to the success of the program, with close to \$7 million in partnership projects with the agricultural sector across Canada having been funded since the start of this initiative. Funding for the SARPAL program will continue.

As for Resolution 13, since Environment and Climate Change Canada continues to develop the model for priority places for conservation such as the South of the Divide in southwest Saskatchewan, investment plans within these areas will be further developed. Working with organizations such as the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association will be key to achieving meaningful on-the-ground results.

I appreciate your providing me with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's resolutions. I value its continued engagement and support for the conservation of Canada's spectacular natural heritage, and I look forward to continuing to partner with the Association in the future.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.