



APR 03 2019

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

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 28, 2019, sharing the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's semi-annual resolutions.

I am very pleased to see continued engagement from the Association toward conservation and the Pathway to Canada Target 1. As you know, healthy grasslands are essential to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and Canada's biodiversity. Well-managed cattle grazing is also an important element of the maintenance of healthy prairie grasslands.

One of the objectives of the Pathway to Canada Target 1 is to encourage efforts among governments and land management partners to contribute to conserving at least 17 percent of Canada's terrestrial areas and inland waters by 2020 through protected areas, including those managed by Indigenous Peoples, and other effective area-based conservation measures. According to the international Convention on Biological Diversity, an other effective conservation measure is "a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values."

Securement and conservation easements that help long-term conservation of biodiversity therefore have the potential to be recognized as other effective conservation measures that contribute to the Pathway to Canada Target 1. Target 1 is a collaborative process involving the federal, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, and non-governmental organizations. Provinces and territories have the authority over natural resources, and they are primarily responsible for determining if protected and conservation areas within their jurisdiction meet the criteria to be recognized. Environment and Climate Change Canada officials play a supporting role in this process and are therefore

.../2

available to assist. In addition, a decision support tool has been developed by Pathway to Canada Target 1 jurisdictions. Departmental officials can also work with you and Government of Saskatchewan officials to facilitate this review and assessment of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association on a case-by-case basis. Should they meet the aforementioned definition, they could contribute to advancing Canada Target 1.

Please note that securement and conservation easements could be recognized as contributing to Target 7 (working landscapes provide stable or improved level of biodiversity) as well as Target 1 of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada. I appreciate the work of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and recognize that well-managed grasslands are critical for wildlife and biodiversity.

I trust that this information is of assistance, and I extend 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.