



July 2, 2024

2024-144

Chad MacPherson
General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
gm@skstockgrowers.com

Dear Chad MacPherson:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Honourable Christine Tell, Minister of Environment, to the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Resolutions related to the Ministry of Environment.

Resolution #6

Wildlife managers use all available data sources when assessing elk populations, including aerial survey information, hunter harvest surveys, ministry and stakeholder field observations, conservation officers' reports and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation indemnity data. Currently, elk populations in Saskatchewan's southwest are generally stable with increases in select Wildlife Management Zones. In response to the increased populations, we expanded the antlerless elk quota in 2023 and 2024 in select southwest zones. Also in 2024, we extended the antlerless elk seasons throughout the Grassland Elk Management Unit, including southwestern zones. This will give hunters an extra ten days in the field. These changes were made to enhance harvest and reduce population growth over time.

Recent changes can only be impactful if hunting access remains available. I would encourage members of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association with elk population concerns to continue to promote access for both licensed and rights-based hunters.

While the ministry continues to encourage producers to work with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation on minimizing losses, an updated policy on the use of big game management extended hunts is being developed for areas where producers are experiencing abnormally high wildlife damage on agricultural products.

To discuss elk population management further, contact our provincial elk specialist, Allison Henderson Hunter at 306-705-7731 or allison.henderson@gov.sk.ca.

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Resolution #14

The Government of Saskatchewan is concerned with the significant overreach that the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board (CSSB) poses to the province. Our government continues to express concerns regarding the proposed Canadian Sustainability Disclosure Standards (CSDS 1 and 2).

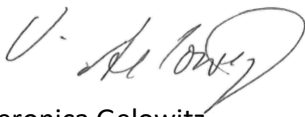
In a recent letter to the CSSB, we stated that compliance with these standards would be prohibitively expensive and administratively burdensome, especially for small and medium-sized businesses. CSDS 1 and 2 will negatively impact the Saskatchewan economy, which relies heavily on emission-intensive industries that support thousands of jobs and public services. We reiterated concerns from the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association about including water stress categorizations in climate disclosure reporting. This requirement is a competitive disadvantage for the drier prairie regions compared to moister regions and jurisdictions not applying the water stress assessment.

We argued that the proposed standards would undermine the competitiveness of Saskatchewan businesses, particularly compared to the United States and Mexico, which have less stringent requirements. The letter highlighted the difficulties of accurately reporting Scope 3 emissions and requested voluntary reporting.

Finally, we called on the CSSB to provide a detailed cost analysis of compliance across all sectors and urged CSSB to consider the unique challenges faced by Saskatchewan industries.

Thank you for sharing the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association resolutions with us and allowing me the opportunity to respond to your priorities. I appreciate our long-standing relationship and look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Veronica Gelowitz
Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable Christine Tell, Minister of Environment
Amy Carriere, Fish and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment
Aaron Wirth, Climate Resilience, Ministry of Environment
Allison Henderson Hunter, Fish and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment