

June 28, 2010

Hon. Jack Hayden
Minister of Agriculture
and Rural Development
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister Hayden:

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) recently held our 2010 Provincial Conference where delegates from our federation of 124 chambers of commerce approved 30 new policies for inclusion in our three-year policy book. Four of these policies relate directly to Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. The following are summaries of them:

Positive changes to the Canadian Wheat Board to promote economic growth in Canada – Our federation has long supported giving producers the choice of participating in the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). This policy continues to support that position and it asks the Government of Canada to instruct the CWB to issue no-cost licences for all interprovincial and export shipments of value-added products of wheat and barley as this move will encourage value-added processing in the Prairie provinces.

Stabilizing the hog industry through facilitating the creation of a trade-neutral, producer-driven, price-stabilization pool/fund – This policy offers a number of recommendations for assisting the pork industry to re-establish its viability and creating a sustainable sector.

Enhance domestic markets and recapture closed international markets for agricultural products – This longstanding policy urges Alberta Agriculture to continue to expand international markets while also developing domestic ones, all with the purpose of creating a balanced and sustainable livestock industry.

Common-sense approach to livestock product identification and food safety – Our federation is concerned about the U.S. Country-of-Origin Labelling legislation. This policy urges the Government of Alberta to work with producers and associations to take appropriate action to counter the protectionist aspects of the U.S. legislation.

ACC has two other previously approved agriculture policies in our policy book. They are the following:

- *Grown-in-Canada label: Marketing Alberta's livestock*
- *Support to ranchers in the removal of specified risk material*

All of our environment policies are enclosed in this correspondence.

We are seeking written responses from your ministry on these policies by mid-August, as that timeline allows us to report to our members. We will also post the responses on our website.

ACC would also appreciate scheduling a meeting with you to discuss our policies, as well as issues of particular interest to you. We look forward to hearing from you,



Kay Olsen, MA
Chair



Ken Kobly, FCGA
President and CEO

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Enclosures

ACC