

July 6, 2010

Hon. Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agri-Culture  
and Agri-Food  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Minister Ritz:

Our federation of 124 chambers of commerce in Alberta recently held our annual provincial conference, which included a policy session that saw delegates approve 30 new policies. Five of these policies relate to your department.

*Positive changes to the Canadian Wheat Board to promote economic growth in Canada* reconfirms our federation's position in favour of choice for farmers in marketing wheat and barley. It also asks the Government of Canada to instruct the Canadian Wheat Board 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* offers a number of recommendations for assisting the pork industry to re-establish its viability and create a sustainable sector.

*Enhance domestic markets and recapture closed international markets for agricultural products* – This 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 Canada to work with producers and associations to take appropriate action to counter the protectionist aspects of the U.S. legislation.

Another policy is *Creating a new pharmaceutical industry in Alberta – The thebaine opportunity*. While this policy seeks permission from the Minister of Health for producers to grow the non-narcotic thebaine poppy, which can be used to produce prescription drugs, ACC believes it is also important to make you aware of our federation's interest in creating this new industry.

Our federation would appreciate knowing the Government of Canada's position on our agriculture policies, which are enclosed in this correspondence.

We look forward to hearing from you,



Kay Olsen, MA  
Chair



Ken Kobly, FCGA  
President and CEO

ACC