



APAS in Action

March 31, 2021



Rural Connectivity Task Force releases final report

Task Force makes 43 recommendations to improve rural internet and cellular service in Saskatchewan

Following six months of research into the causes of poor rural internet and cellular service, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has released the final report and recommendations of its Rural Connectivity Task Force (RCTF).

"We've spent months meeting industry experts and researching the issue of rural connectivity," says Task Force Chair Jeremy Welter, who farms near Kerrobert, SK. "That work has resulted in 43 recommendations that will help improve rural internet and cell service in Saskatchewan."

The RCTF recommendations were ratified by the APAS membership at the 2021 APAS Annual Meeting on March 30. They are divided into seven major categories, including:

Working Together – Supporting shared access to infrastructure and fair partnerships between service providers.

Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen – Simplifying Canada's regulatory structure for greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

The Importance of Smaller Internet Service Providers – Supporting competition within the industry to ensure smaller players can survive, thrive, and support universal internet access.

Optimizing Public Resources – Optimizing government funding and managing spectrum effectively.

Regaining and Retaining Canadian Excellence – Ensuring that Canada takes a leadership role to build long-term sustainability within our telecommunications industry and infrastructure.

Taking Control of the Saskatchewan Advantage – Leveraging our Crown Corporations to ensure that Saskatchewan plays a leadership role in achieving universal connectivity and realizing the social and economic benefits that come along with it.

Consumer Protection – Ensuring consumers are guaranteed high-quality, affordable internet service.

You can view the Task Force's final report [HERE](#).
Learn more about the Rural Connectivity Task Force at www.apas.ca/connectivity.



APAS re-elects President at 2021 AGM

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan held its 2021 Annual General Meeting on March 30, 2021.

Following the meeting, the APAS Board of Directors re-elected Todd Lewis, APAS Representative for RM of Lajord #128, as President for 2021.

Lewis farms at Gray, Saskatchewan with his family, and was first elected to the position at the end of 2016.

Ian Boxall of Tisdale and Bill Prybylski of Willowbrook were re-elected as Vice Presidents.

APAS Representatives also elected six Directors to the APAS board for a two-year term. Those individuals are highlighted in bold.

District One

Wanda Reid RM of Golden West #95

Steven Donald RM of Martin #122

District Two

Todd Lewis RM of Lajord #128

Bev Pirio RM of Laurier #38

District Three

Don Connick RM of Carmichael #109

Devin Harlick RM of Piapot #110

District Four

Ian Boxall RM of Connaught #457

Bill Prybylski RM of Garry #245

District Five

Donavon Block RM of Leroy, #339

One position to be elected in April

District Six

Scott Owens RM of Eldon #471

Jeremy Welter RM of Mariposa #350



Resolutions passed at AGM

APAS Representatives passed six resolutions during Tuesday's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Sask Power Fire Hazards and Claims Processes - APAS lobby SaskPower to review Fire Fighting Claims guidelines and consult with volunteer Fire Departments and landowners in the process.

Responsible Grains Code of Practice - that Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) be encouraged to promote current farm practices and regulations and only proceed with additional 'assurance benchmarks' that address a clear need/market risk are producer-driven and recognize the value of current responsible stewardship practices.

Wildlife Damage Programs for Grain in Temporary Storage - APAS requests wildlife damage compensation and prevention programs are expanded to cover harvested production stored in grain bags and other temporary storage systems with a deadline of April 1.

Port of Vancouver Governance Reform - APAS strongly supports the request that the Port of Vancouver governance structure is updated to include greater representation from western provincial governments and the export-dependent industries in their jurisdictions.

Conversion of Grain Weight to Dry Matter Basis - APAS request the federal government establish a conversion factor for grains and oilseed that calculates weight on a 'dry matter basis'.

Producer Car Access to Port Terminals - The Canadian Grain Commission uses its authority under the Canada Grain Act to ensure producer car shipments are provided access to Port handling and loading services at competitive rates.

For full details about the resolutions passed, visit [HERE](#)

APAS in the News

- **Mar 30 - [Rural Connectivity final report released](#)** (FortSaskOnline).
 - **Mar 25 - [APAS responds to Supreme Court ruling over Carbon Tax.](#)** (CTV Saskatoon).
 - **Mar 18 - [Saskatchewan farm land is increasing in value, says FCC](#)** (Global News).
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Stay safe and keep in touch about any specific issues you are facing in your own operations and communities!

Best regards,
APAS Board of Directors and staff



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