



## APAS in Action – October 2017

Welcome to APAS in Action, a monthly update on how Saskatchewan's general farm organization is working on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM representative, RM Administrator or Reeve (Member or Non-Member), we encourage you to share this information with your Council at your next scheduled meeting and with ratepayers in your RM whenever possible. If you wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact us at [info@apas.ca](mailto:info@apas.ca) or (306) 789-7774.

### Changes Announced to the Proposed Federal Tax Reforms

Last week, Finance Canada announced a series of amendments to its proposed tax changes. Here are the government's news releases:

- [Targeted Tax Fairness Measures Will Protect Small Business Owners Including Farmers and Fishers](#)
- [Targeted Tax Fairness Measures Will Protect Middle Class Small Business Owners](#)
- [Government Moves to Reduce Small Business Tax Rate and Support Fairness for the Middle Class](#)
- [Targeted Tax Fairness Measures Will Protect Canada's Next Generation of Innovators and Entrepreneurs](#)

APAS is awaiting further details and draft legislation on the remaining proposals, but is '[cautiously optimistic](#)' about the announced changes.

### Meetings with Federal Representatives Regarding the Proposed Federal Tax Reforms

This month, prior to the government announcing amendments to their proposed tax changes, APAS met with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Finance Minister, Joël Lightbound, and Regina Member of Parliament, Ralph Goodale, in separate meetings to discuss APAS' concerns regarding the tax matter.

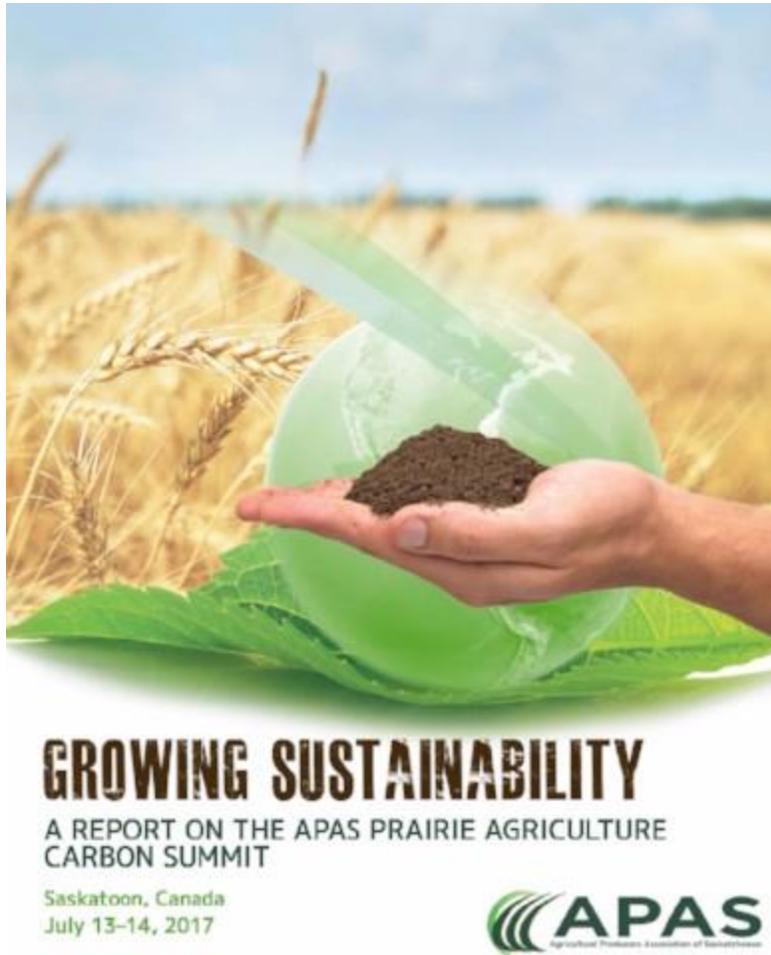
### APAS Executive in Ottawa

Todd Lewis, Norm Hall and Ian Boxall are in Ottawa this week, attending the CFA board meeting and participating in the CFA's lobby day on Parliament Hill.



Look for the fall 2017 edition of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice, included with the October 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the Western Producer. The issue features YAP committee member Kim Keller on the cover and articles about mental health in ag, the Prairie Agriculture Carbon Summit, the new CGC Commissioners, rural safety and the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship program. The issue will also be available on the APAS website.

## Carbon Summit Final Report



An in-depth, final report on this summer's Prairie Agriculture Carbon Summit is now available [on the APAS website.](#)

### APAS AGM notice of meeting

The notices of the 2017 APAS AGM have been sent out. Information is included regarding [which hotels to book and how to receive the special APAS rate.](#) A reminder to book your hotels for the AGM sooner, rather than later!

### Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program – October 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline

The deadline to apply for the Youth Leadership and Mentorship program is just a few days away. The program is open to Saskatchewan producers who are under the age of 40 and actively engaged in farming. Each young farmer is paired with an established Saskatchewan farm leader in a mentor/mentee relationship. Participants also have a chance to attend the APAS and CFA AGMs, develop their leadership skills, improve presentation skills, identify and advance farm issues, learn to chair meetings, negotiate and find solutions. It's a 9-month program that runs from November 2017-July 2018 and requires about a 12-14 day time commitment over the course of the program.

The application is available [here.](#) Any questions can be directed to Don Ross at [dross@apas.ca](mailto:dross@apas.ca).

## Conferences and Seminars

APAS staff members have had the opportunity to attend several recent conferences and seminars about issues that greatly affect producers, including the [Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's](#) Public Trust Summit, and a [mental health in the workplace seminar from Bridges Health](#).

## CleanFarms Pick Up

A reminder that CleanFarms will be picking up unwanted pesticides and livestock medications in southern Saskatchewan this week, October 23-27. For a full list of dates and locations, [click here](#).

## Don Ross Retires

Don Ross retired from APAS earlier this month, however he will continue to oversee the Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program. His email, [dross@apas.ca](mailto:dross@apas.ca), is still active. For any questions regarding which APAS staff member now handles any of Don's former responsibilities, please contact the office. Happy retirement, Don!

## Welcome New RMs

APAS RM membership is currently sitting at a total of 116 with the addition of the RMs of Hazelwood (#94) and Spy Hill (#152). Welcome to APAS!

## APAS in the News

- Manitoba Co-operator: ['Farmers, grain companies deliver consistent message on rail legislation'](#)
- Moose Jaw Times-Herald: ['New international deal opens doors for producers'](#)
- Newstalk 980 CJME: ['The frustration continues:' Feds, Sask. business community talk tax changes'](#)
- National Post: ['Saskatchewan farm group has grave concerns about proposed federal tax reform'](#)
- Western Producer: ['Nitrogen prices looking cheap across Prairies'](#)
- Estevan Mercury: ['APAS reacts to federal legislation changes'](#)
- Western Producer: ['BASF to acquire LibertyLink from Bayer'](#)

## Save the Dates:

**October 23-27** – CleanFarms unwanted pesticides and livestock medication pickup, southern Saskatchewan

**October 30** – District 1 meeting, Carlyle

**November 2 and 3** – APAS Board meeting, Regina

**November 9** – District 6 meeting, North Battleford

**November 10** – District 5 meeting, St. Peters Abbey

**November 13** – District 4 meeting, Yorkton

**November 28, 29 and 30** - APAS AGM, Regina