



APAS in Action – September 2017

Welcome to APAS in Action, a monthly update on how your 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 have ideas for a future edition or wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact us at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774.

Call to Action on Proposed Federal Tax Changes

APAS is speaking out against the federal government's proposed tax measures for private corporations. The proposal contains sweeping changes to the way assets, dividends and capital gains are taxed when transferred between family members. Given that the clear majority (93%) of incorporated farms are family businesses, the proposed changes could have serious and negative impacts on family farm succession plans that have been developed for the long term.

APAS has written to the Federal Minister of Finance, Saskatchewan MPs, and the Standing Committee on Finance highlighting initial concerns and requesting the withdrawal of the proposal until more time and consideration can go into such transformative changes. The October 2 deadline certainly does not allow farmers adequate time to assess the impact these changes could have on their financial management plans.

MNP has developed an excellent summary of the changes and their potential impact on farm businesses. You can read that summary [here](#).

APAS will continue to work with other provincial and national farm organization to further analyze the detail of the proposal and coordinate lobbying efforts against these changes.

APAS is supporting the CFA's Call to Action on this issue, and is urging producers to contact their Members of Parliament to ask them to reconsider these proposed tax changes. Information on how to contact your MP can be found [here](#).

APAS calls for moratorium on closure of producer car loading sites

APAS responded to CP's decision to close 10 producer car loading sites in the province. Seeing as producers will be continuing to pay for the maintenance of these sites in the MRE formula, APAS is calling for a moratorium on these and future site closures until a costing review is completed. APAS has also asked for improvements to the discontinuance process to ensure that

affected producers and municipalities are better notified and consulted on changes to public rail sidings.

Read the APAS Press Release [here](#).

Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program

The deadline to apply for the Youth Leadership and Mentorship program is October 31, 2017. There are only five spots available in this program for active producers between the age of 18 and 39 who currently have land in an APAS member RM.

Each young producer will be paired with a mentor over the course of 9 months, from November 2017 to July 2018. The total time commitment is about 12-14 days and all expenses are paid. Participants will have the opportunity to attend APAS District, Committee, Board and Annual General Meetings, as well as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting in late February/early March. Mentees will develop leadership skills as well as learn to chair meetings, improve presentation skills and get the chance to meet other young producers.

The application is available [here](#). Any questions can be directed to Don Ross at 306-789-7774 ext. 3 or dross@apas.ca. If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please get in touch.

Chrysler Fleet Program Pricing

Updated 2017/2018 Chrysler Fleet program pricing for APAS RM member ratepayers can be found [here](#). 63 vehicles were purchased through this program in the last year, resulting in a six-figure savings for our members. For more information on member rewards, including the Chrysler Fleet program, [visit the APAS website](#).

Welcome New RMs

APAS RM membership is currently sitting at a total of 114. 96 full members and 18 in the transitional process. Welcome to APAS, RM of Britannia #502!

APAS in the News

- [Global: 'Proposed federal tax changes anticipated to hit Saskatchewan farmers hard'](#)
- [CBC: 'After dry summer, some Sask. farmers surprised by quality of early harvest'](#)
- [Grainews: 'Hold Off on Closing Producer Car Loading Sites Says APAS President'](#)
- [Western Producer: 'An Isolating Illness: Talking About Mental Health'](#)

Save the Dates:

Late October/Early November (TBD) – District and committee meetings
November 28, 29 and 30 - APAS AGM (Regina)