

APAS in Action • February 2018

GRAIN BACKLOG AND TRANSPORT BILL C-49

APAS has been very active these past few weeks in calling for a solution to the current backlog of Canadian grain due to rail transport issues and the passing of transport bill C-49.

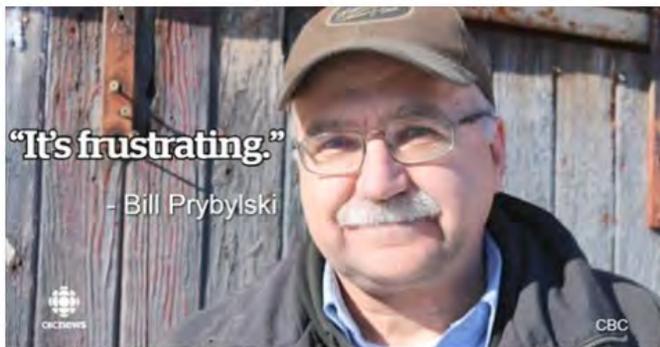
APAS President Todd Lewis addressed the Senate Standing Committee on Transport and Communications on February 14 to urge them to pass Transport Bill C-49. You can [view his remarks here](#).

The transportation issue was a major focus of the CFA Annual General Meeting in Ottawa last week, where APAS and the CFA organized a news conference to raise attention to the issue and press politicians for immediate action. [Watch that video here](#).

APAS has been highlighted in the media on this issue and will continue to speak out about the situation until it is resolved. (See APAS in the News on page 3)



The agriculture industry is warning that the rail backlog is a dire situation, as it pushes for action from the government: <http://www.cbc.ca/1.4437488>



APAS Director Bill Prybylski spoke to CBC about his experience with the grain backlog. [Watch it here](#).



For more pictures from the CFA AGM, check out the [album on the APAS Facebook](#).

The [February 15 news release](#) that APAS issued on the backlog is available on the APAS website, as is the [March 8 release](#) from the Saskatchewan producers transportation coalition, which includes APAS, Sask Wheat and SaskBarley.

The House of Commons Agriculture Committee will be meeting to discuss this grain backlog on March 19. Stay tuned.

CFA AGM

APAS sent a delegation to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's AGM in Ottawa last week. While in Ottawa, the APAS Executive and staff took the opportunity to meet with MPs, Senators and other government officials including:

- Hon. Judy Sgro, Chair - Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
- Policy advisors to the Minister of Transport
- Canadian Transportation Agency
- Saskatchewan Conservative Party Caucus
- Hon. Ralph Goodale

The CFA AGM was productive, with 42 resolutions being passed. 16 of those originated from APAS, see the full list [here](#).

The 9 mentees from the APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program also joined the APAS delegation. Here they are meeting Federal Ag Minister Lawrence MacAulay.

Policy Priorities for Agriculture Conference



[Registration is now open. Click to register](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre

APAS BOARD MEETING

In early February the APAS board met in Regina for a productive two day meeting. Some of the resolutions and decisions that came out of that meeting include:

- Creation of the Rural Life committee. APAS will be looking for reps to indicate their interest in sitting on this policy committee at the policy conference
- Approval for the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association and Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association to join APAS as Associate Members

APAS SUBMISSIONS

- [Federal Carbon Backstop Legislation](#) - Environment & Climate Change Canada
- [Draft Wildlife Game Management Plan](#) Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- [Farm Implements Act Regulatory Review](#) Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

APAS policy staff are currently working on requests for comment on the Provincial Climate Change Strategy and the Federal Fisheries Act.

NEW MEMBERS

The following RMs are now members of APAS:

- Pinto Creek #75
- Fillmore #96
- Wheatlands #163
- Eyebrow #193
- Huron #223
- Buchanan #304
- Blucher #343

That brings the total number of APAS member RMs to 123, or just over 40% of the total number of RMs in Saskatchewan. Welcome to APAS!

FARM INPUT PRICE SURVEY



APAS is still looking for Saskatchewan producers to complete a short, online survey regarding input prices! It is part of the APAS Farm Input Price Survey project, and only takes about 5 minutes to complete.

The responses from this short online survey will help determine whether an online database containing average, up to date input prices is feasible.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

CANADA'S AG DAY

APAS held a free public screening of the documentary 'Food Evolution' on February 13 at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina in honour of Canada's Ag Day. Several dozen people attended, and SARM, Sask Milk and Sask Beef were on hand to talk about their organizations. Thanks to Sherwood Co Op for sponsoring the refreshments. If you missed the documentary, APAS will be screening it again at the Policy Conference in Saskatoon on March 26.

DO MORE AG FOUNDATION

APAS is proud to announce its sponsorship of the [Do More Ag Foundation](#), which was recently launched in order to champion the mental wellbeing of all Canadian producers. Former APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program mentee Kim Keller is one of the co-founders. She travelled to Ottawa as part of the APAS delegation at the CFA AGM to speak to CFA members about Do More Ag and the importance of mental health.



APAS IN THE NEWS

- ['Farmer launches campaign to nix PST on insurance'](#) - Western Producer
- ['Sask. Party leader has rural backing'](#) - Western Producer
- ["Fueling the fire: higher gas prices expected in Saskatchewan"](#) - Farms.com
- ['APAS President presses Senate to pass Bill C-49'](#) - North East Now
- ['Biosecurity on the radar for many crop growers'](#) - Alberta Farmer Express
- ['Rail shipment delays causing 'dire situation' for Canadian farmers'](#) - CBC
- ['Sask. producers pleased with PST pullback on agriculture'](#) - CJME
- ['Grain farmers bring transport plea to Ottawa: 'We need a plan''](#) - iPolitics
- [Todd Lewis' segment from John Gormley Live on the grain backlog](#)
- ["We've really felt the pinch: As silos fill up, farmers call on Ottawa to ease rail backlogs"](#) - Financial Post
- ['Agriculture industry happy with 'million dollar storm' after lengthy dry spell'](#) - CBC
- ['Putting yourself out there - ag policy and the under 40 crowd'](#) - Real Agriculture
- ['Average return to remain steady for 2018 crop insurance program'](#) - Tisdale Record and Parkland Review
- ['Ag industry pleased with Canada's CPTPP signing'](#) - Farms.com
- ["Shipping season has been a disaster"](#) - Western Producer

UPCOMING DATES

- Canadian Ag Safety Week - March 11-17
- SARM Convention - March 13-16, Todd Lewis addresses the convention on March 16 at 1 pm
- APAS Policy Priorities for Agriculture Conference - March 27, Saskatoon
- APAS office closed, Good Friday and Easter Monday - March 30 and April 2

APAS in Action is the monthly e-newsletter detailing the activities of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan's general farm organization. Subscribe here: <http://www.apas.ca/apas-in-action>. If you have questions about or wish to comment on anything you read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact the APAS office at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774 ext. 6.