

## APAS in Action • May 2018

### TRANSPORT BILL C-49 PASSES INTO LAW

Over the last year, APAS has made a lot of effort in advocating for our members in the discussion on Bill C-49, the new federal transportation legislation. Several important new provisions have been included that could provide new tools for more accountability in the grain transportation system. Members of both the House of Commons and the Senate from all political parties took considerable time and paid a lot of attention to our issues, and the final legislation reflected amendments from both Houses. There is still much work to do on the details.

- Data reporting and planning

C-49 includes new planning and data-reporting requirements for the railways. Both will have to develop and publish plans on how they will move the crop each year, before the start of the new crop year. -> This will be a very positive development if the plans that are tabled are detailed enough to provide information on accountability for service. These plans will require good data from the railways to identify potential issues, especially for winter shipments.

- Service level agreements with railways

C-49 gives grain shippers the ability to enter into year-long commercial contracts with railways that detail the level of service expected by the railway. It also allows grain shippers to negotiate and enforce “reciprocal penalties” against railways for not meeting these service standards. If the two sides can’t negotiate these terms, the Canadian Transportation Agency has the authority to arbitrate a service level contract. -> It will be at least a year or two before these agreements can be worked out. We strongly believe that similar provisions between grain companies and producers will be the next step in accountability.

- Long-haul interswitching

Long-haul interswitching allows a grain company facility to apply for service from a railway that it is not located on and their local railway would be required to provide the service. Previous provisions in Bill C-30 have been expanded to The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has 30 days to respond to a long-haul interswitching request. -> It may take some time for companies to figure out how to use these provisions to improve service.

- CTA “own-motion” authority

The Canadian Transportation Agency can now investigate potential grain shipping problems, without receiving a formal complaint, with the permission of the Minister. C-49 clarifies the CTA’s definition of “adequate and suitable” service by railways. -> We are aware that grain shippers, and other shippers, have been reluctant to make a formal complaint for fear of retribution by railways. This provision could improve the balance between shippers and railway companies.

- Maximum revenue entitlement

The maximum revenue entitlement (MRE) stays, but now reflects each individual company’s investment on grain shipments, including hopper cars. Soybeans are now covered under the MRE. CN has already announced that they are buying 1,000 new cars. -> While this provision will help provide an incentive for the hopper car fleet, we have to remember that it is producers that will pay for the cars, and we don’t know yet how much they will cost.

## APAS ASKS SENATE AG COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER CARBON TAX

Todd Lewis travelled to Ottawa this month to speak to the Senate standing committee on Ag about budget Bill C-74 and the carbon taxation component within it. APAS is opposed to a carbon tax. Watch Todd's presentation [here](#).

If you haven't already, [click here](#) to read the final report from APAS' 2017 Prairie Agriculture Carbon Summit.

## APAS SUPPORTS PROVINCIAL REFERENCE TO COURT OF APPEAL ON CARBON TAX

On April 25, the province of Saskatchewan launched a constitutional reference case in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to challenge the federal government's ability to impose a carbon tax on the province. APAS publicly applauded the move. Read the [APAS release](#) here.

## NEW MEMBERS

- Snipe Lake #259
- McCraney #282
- Rosthern #403

This brings the total number of APAS member RMs to 133, or about 45% of the total number of RMs in Saskatchewan. Since the beginning of 2017, 33 new RMs have joined APAS. Welcome!

The deadline to advertise in the next issue of APAS' quarterly magazine is June 8. [Click here](#) for rates and ad sizes. Starting in July, Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is expanding to bring stories about Saskatchewan producers, important agricultural issues, rural life, agronomy, business and APAS activities directly to every farm mailbox in Saskatchewan - almost doubling its circulation to more than 35,000!

SASKATCHEWAN  
**FARMERS' VOICE**  
...is growing!



## NEW OFFICE

APAS will be moving to a new office in the fall of 2018. Our new address will be 3041A Pasqua Street, Regina.

## APAS EXPANDING MAGAZINE

## AG IN MOTION

Come say hello at the APAS booth at Ag in Motion in Langham from July 17-19!



## NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

[Yuen's Family Fashions in Langenburg](#) is now offering 25% off all regular priced workwear to ratepayers of APAS member RMs. Simply show your APAS member card to receive the special APAS rate.

## APAS MENTEE TED TALK GOES VIRAL

Adrienne Ivey's TEDx Talk from the Regina Public Library in March is being widely shared around the internet. Adrienne (RM 246 Ituna-Bon Accord) participated in the last APAS Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program. Watch her talk 'In Food We Trust: The Story Behind the Beef on Your Plate' [here](#).

## APAS IN THE NEWS

- '[Carbon court: Saskatchewan seeks Court of Appeal ruling on federal carbon tax](#)' - Canadian Press
- '[Transport minister accepts Senate's grain-related amendments to Bill C-49](#)' - Real Agriculture
- '[Your Agriculture: late start to spring seeding](#)' - Global Saskatchewan
- '[Rural Sask. receives \\$14m investment](#)' - Farms.com
- '[Sask. farm group addresses Senate on carbon tax](#)' - Farm News Now.com
- '[Farm groups frustrated as grain bill delayed again](#)' - Saskatoon StarPhoenix
- '[Todd Lewis on Rail Backlogs](#)' - John Gormley Show
- '[CP Rail strike could affect commuters in Toronto, Montreal Vancouver](#)' - Canadian Press

## UPCOMING DATES

- APAS office closed - July 2
- Ag in Motion - July 17-19, Langham
- 2018 APAS AGM - November 27-29, Regina

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](mailto:info@apas.ca) or (306) 789-7774 ext. 6.