

APAS in Action • March 2019

CARDLOCK ISSUE/ FEDERAL BUDGET

APAS has been calling on the federal government to address a loophole in the incoming Carbon Tax legislation that does not exempt farm fuel purchased from cardlocks before April 1st. The federal government has responded with a fix, announced alongside the 2019 Federal budget. [Producers will need to obtain and sign a certificate](#) that states the fuel is being used in the course of eligible farming activities. APAS is encouraging producers to contact their bulk fuel supplier to ensure that they have the proper paperwork signed and in place before taking delivery of fuel either at the farm gate or through the cardlock system.

Overall, APAS called the 2019 federal budget a ‘mixed-bag’ that fails to address the long-term financial impacts of the Carbon Tax on agricultural producers. However, APAS was pleased to see programs to expand rural high-speed internet service included in the 2019 budget, as well as infrastructure funding eligibility for short line railways and funding for a study on land and water resources on the Prairie Provinces.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET

The province also announced its 2019 budget last week. “We are pleased to see that the provincial budget preserves the programs that producers rely on, like Crop Insurance and agricultural research,” said APAS President Todd Lewis. “We are also pleased that the government listened to producer groups and re-instated funding for the rat control program.”

The budget also recognizes that our Province depends on a healthy and profitable agriculture sector. However, Lewis cautioned that current trade, price and production risks, and higher costs like carbon taxes, could all impact producers negatively, and this might put Business Risk Management programming to the test.

“We have serious trade and price concerns about canola and pulse crops, which are our main revenue generators on the crop side, and dry conditions are a concern for the livestock and crop sectors,” he explained. “While we appreciate the level of support for Crop and Livestock insurance, there is a risk that producers may not be adequately covered due to the low level of enrollment in Agri-Stability.”

CANOLA EXPORTS TO CHINA

APAS has expressed grave concern about a shutdown of Canadian Canola exports to China and has called for elected officials to use every possible avenue to resolve these very serious issues. APAS released a statement to the media that pointed out that producers are weeks away from planting the 2019 crop, and a trade issue with our largest Canola seed customer is a very disturbing development and creates a lot of economic uncertainty for growers. APAS is continuing to monitor the situation for developments.

APAS POLICY CONFERENCE

The APAS Policy Conference is happening next week at the Saskatoon Inn. There are some meetings scheduled for Monday April 1st for APAS Representatives. The focus on Tuesday April 2 will be on carbon-related topics, and the public is welcome to attend this day of the conference. The final day, April 3, will only be open to APAS Reps and Members for internal discussions. To register and see the agenda for April 2, visit APAS.ca/pc.

APAS IS HIRING - ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan requires an Assistant General Manager to join our team and help continue to grow and engage our membership.

The APAS Assistant General Manager will have primary responsibility for the organization's membership program; including relations with participating Rural Municipalities and Associate members, strategic planning and implementation for the recruitment of new members, and the coordination and promotion of the APAS Member benefits program.

The Assistant General Manager will also assist the General Manager as required. The primary focus will be coordinating the APAS relationship with APAS RM representatives, ratepayer members, administrators and councils and Associate members; including;

- Development and delivery of the overall APAS Membership Strategy
- Coordination of presentations at Rural Municipal meetings and other events
- Coordination of internal communication with participating RMs and Reps, and Associate members, and assistance with organizing internal events. This includes communicating APAS policy positions and advocacy and conveying member input and feedback to the organization.
- Administration and promotion of the APAS Member Benefits programs.
- Administration and promotion of APAS external sponsorship.

Qualifications

A successful candidate will have the following qualifications

- Proven experience with recruitment and member relations in a member-based organization
- Strong communications, presentation and marketing skills
- Ability to travel, with a valid driver's license
- A highly motivated results-oriented individual with the ability to work both independently and collaboratively with the APAS team.
- Knowledge of prairie agriculture and an interest in public policy are a distinct asset

APAS provides a competitive salary and employment benefits package

Apply to General Manager, Duane Haave, with a cover letter, resume and references to info@apas.ca. Posting closes April 18, 2019.

SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS' VOICE

The latest issue of Saskatchewan Farmers' Voice is out and has been delivered to all 35,000 farm mailboxes in Saskatchewan. [Click here to read it online](#). The next issue is coming in late April. The deadline to book advertising in the April issue is April 5, [click here for advertising rates](#).

APAS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With the recent additions of RMs #461 Prince Albert and #241 Calder, current APAS membership is sitting at 135 RMs. APAS would also like to welcome the Canadian Farmers with Disabilities Registry and the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, which are both new Associate Members.

NEW STAFF

APAS would like to welcome Chelsea Parent to the APAS team. Chelsea joins us from the Rural Municipal Association of Alberta. She is a Policy Analyst and can be reached at cparent@apas.ca.



APAS IN THE NEWS

- [Canola seed shipments to China remain a concern](#) - DiscoverHumboldt.com
- [Sask. budget includes addition ag spending](#) - Farms.com
- [Feds announce possible carbon tax exemption for cardlock fuel](#) - RealAgriculture.com
- [Fuel at card locks may face tax](#) - Western Producer
- [Sask. supports water management](#) - Farms.com
- [Seed royalty debate needs Plan C: farm group](#) - Western Producer
- [Canada Names First Female Agriculture Minister](#) - SwiftCurrentOnline.com
- [Carbon tax fight in Saskatchewan has huge implications for farmers across the country, says President of APAS](#) - Ag-Matters.com
- [Todd Lewis on Carbon Tax court case](#) - Brent Loucks show, CKOM
- [Carbon tax court primer: Who are the players at this week's reference case?](#) - Saskatoon StarPhoenix
- [APAS welcomes third expansion of Livestock Tax Deferral eligibility, calls for program improvements](#) - Farms.com

UPCOMING DATES

- April 2 and 3, 2019 - APAS Policy Conference

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 have read in APAS in Action, please feel free to contact the APAS office at info@apas.ca or (306) 789-7774 ext. 6.