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# Ag Matters

May 7, 2026



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## Urgent Reforms To Shield Canadian Agriculture from Transportation Disruptions

### **Addressing the Fallout of the 2023 Labour Dispute**

Following the 2023 labour dispute at west coast ports, the previous Minister of Labour appointed an Industrial Inquiry Commission (IIC) to conduct a comprehensive review of the underlying issues in longshoring labour disputes. This report was submitted in May 2025.

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On April 17, 2026, the Honourable  
Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and

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Families, and the Honourable John Zerucelli, Secretary of State (Labour), announced consultations to modernize the federal labour relations framework.

### The Crucial Role of Rail and Port Systems

During a November 2025 session of the Standing Senate Committee on Transportation, APAS provided insights into the implications of labour disruptions on rail and port operations. They emphasized that these systems serve as vital conduits for the agricultural sector, particularly for Western farmers who heavily rely on rail to transport grain to global markets.



### Advocating for Robust Policy Reforms

With an aim to insulate farm families from the adverse economic impacts of transportation sector labour disruptions, APAS proposed several legislative considerations:

1. **Broadening Essential Services** - APAS suggested redefining essential services to encompass critical economic activities, notably the movement of grain to international markets.
2. **Enhancing the Labour Code** - APAS advocated for a more comprehensive application of the Labour Code to protect all aspects of grain transportation across the entire network of rail and ports during labour disputes.
3. **Reducing Dispute Resolution Timelines** - APAS called for introducing measures that would expedite dispute resolution and government intervention, thereby lessening both the likelihood and impact of future disruptions.

these interventions, Canadian farmers are left vulnerable to ongoing disruptions in the transportation sector.

**Submissions are requested no later than May 18, 2026 to:**

**[esdc.nc.labour.consultations-travail.nc.edsc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:esdc.nc.labour.consultations-travail.nc.edsc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)**

### Industrial Inquiry Commission Report

In response to the governments consultation and on behalf of its members, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has signed on in support the [Keep Grain Moving initiative!](#)

The initiative has launched a coalition [website](#) called *Keep Grain Moving*.

The website links to a recently released report prepared for the Crop Logistics Working Group outlining the economic impacts of transportation labour disruptions on Canada's grain sector.



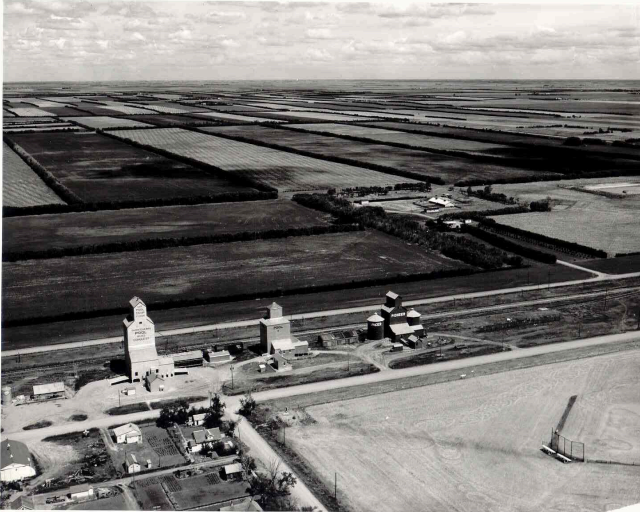
**TOO MUCH  
ON THE LINE**

**KEEP SUPPLY CHAINS ON TRACK**

Canada's farmers, exporters, and global customers depend on reliable rail and port infrastructure. When the lines stop, Canada pays the price.

Impacts of Transportation Labour Disruptions on Canada's Grain Sector

# Impacts of the 2023 Legislative Change



Did you know, the March 2023 amendment to the Saskatchewan Business Corporations Act, 2021 undermines transparency in farmland ownership by eliminating the requirement for corporations to disclose shareholder addresses in their annual corporate returns to the Information Services Corporation (ISC).

Photos courtesy Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan.

This change severely hampers the enforcement of Saskatchewan's foreign ownership restrictions for several reasons:

**1. Loss of a Key Investigative**

**Tool** - The Farm Land Security Board (FLSB) previously relied on ISC corporate returns to verify shareholder residency. Without access to this data, regulators cannot efficiently identify who controls corporate entities purchasing farmland, weakening oversight.



- 2. Reliance on Outdated Data is Unsustainable** - While historical corporate returns from pre-2023 provide temporary support, this data will become increasingly outdated as corporate structures and shareholder compositions evolve. This blind spot enables ownership to remain concealed.
- 3. A Flawed, Reactive System** - The FLSB must now request statutory declarations from corporate buyers to verify residency, a process criticized by the Provincial Auditor for its ineffectiveness. Since declarations aren't mandatory before land title changes, non-compliance often goes unchecked.

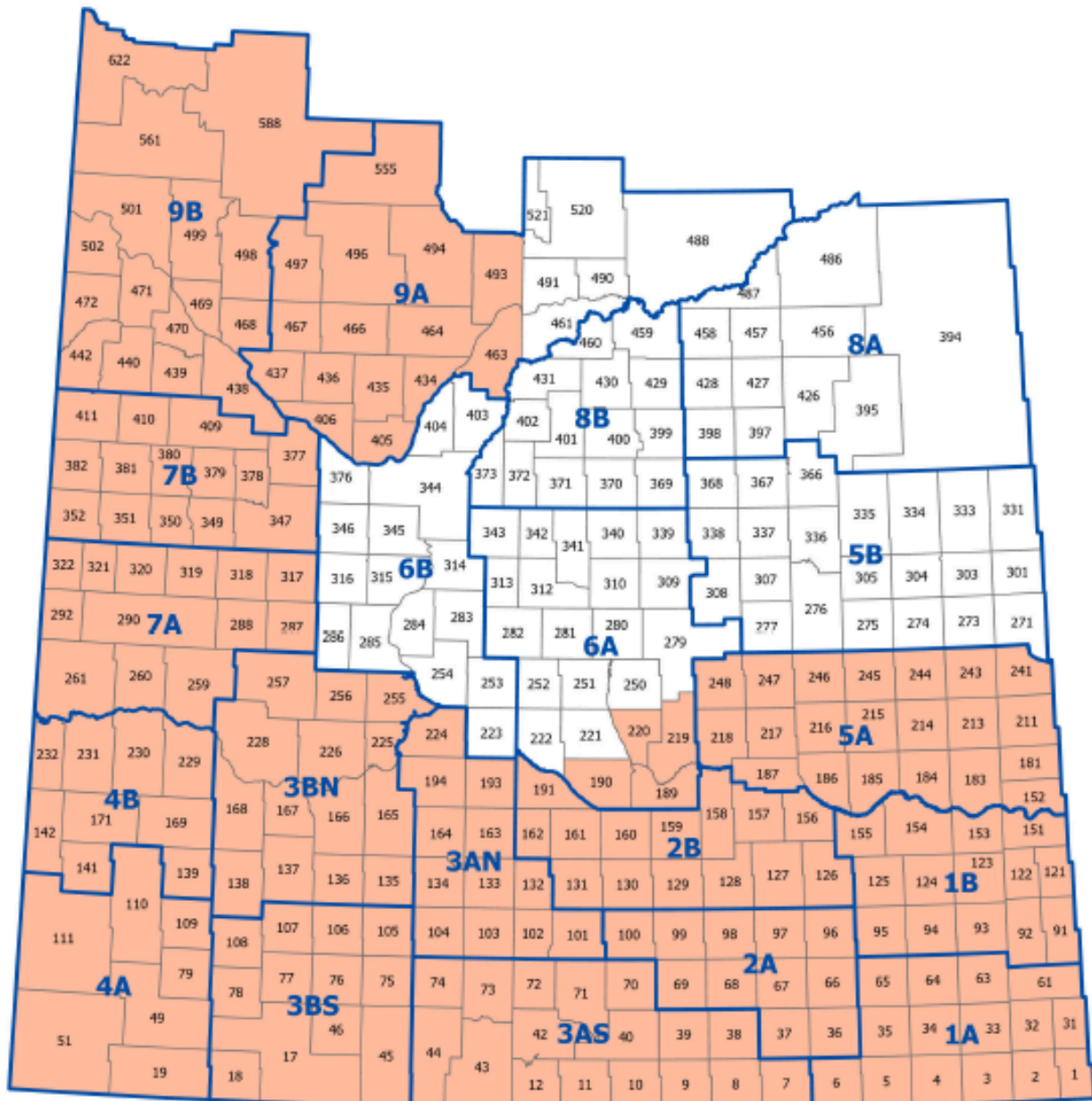
This legislative change creates a significant regulatory blind spot, enabling corporate

entities and investors to obscure ownership and circumvent protections for Saskatchewan farmland.

# Strychnine Use Update

## Strychnine Emergency Registration Use Area

- Crop District
- Rural Municipality
- Saskatchewan Strychnine Use Area



## Strychnine Stewardship Program



## Online training for producers available now



Producers in eligible Sask. regions can now access Strychnine Stewardship Program training.

Training is required to access strychnine for responsible RGS control.

Proof of training completion is required before strychnine can be purchased.

Training must be completed every year strychnine is used.

For more on eligibility and participating RMs, see [Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control](https://Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control).

### How Do I Obtain Strychnine?

Through the Strychnine Stewardship Program, strychnine will be distributed by RM offices that have completed the mandatory training and have expressed interest in participating as a distributor.

First Nation Communities within the eligible strychnine use area may obtain strychnine from the nearest RM that is distributing strychnine.

RMs in eligible areas have the choice to opt out and not participate as a distributor. In this case, strychnine will not be available within the RM unless the RM makes an agreement to have a neighbouring RM in the eligible area distribute it on their behalf.

Users must sign a Treatment Plan and Declaration Form.

In the Treatment Plan and Declaration Form, users will commit to follow all label restrictions, adhere to requirements of the Strychnine Stewardship Program and participate in field audits when requested.

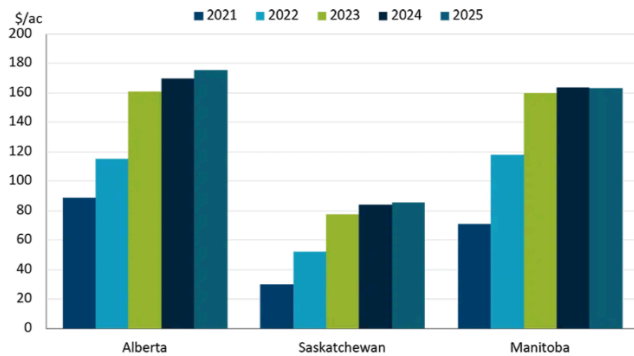
Producers will purchase strychnine from the participating RM office they selected as their primary RM on their training documentation.

Strychnine will be available for the late summer application window from July 15 and September 1.

**For more information on program details and RGS control options, producers can visit [Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control](https://Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control) or email [RGS@gov.sk.ca](mailto:RGS@gov.sk.ca)**

# Farm Credit Canada 2025 Farmland Rental Rates

Figure 1: Per acre difference in profitability for renting vs newly purchased land in the Prairies



Here are the key points regarding Saskatchewan from the 2025 Farm Credit Canada (FCC) farmland rental rates report:

- Land Values are Outpacing Rent:** The Prairies, including Saskatchewan, recorded the strongest national gains in farmland values in 2025. However, the cost to rent land did not increase at the same pace as these surging property values.

### Declining Rent-to-Price (RP) Ratio -

Because land prices grew much faster than rental rates, Saskatchewan’s average Rent-to-Price ratio dropped from an average 3.10% in 2024 to 2.90% in 2025. Across the province, this ratio ranged from a minimum of 1.60% to a maximum of 4.40%.

Table 1: 2025 Rent to price ratio by province, with minimum and maximum range by province, including 2024 Rent to price ratio

Province	2025 Rental Rates			2024 Rental Rates
	Average Rent/Price Ratio	Range		Average Rent/Price Ratio
		MIN	MAX	
AB	2.20%	1.30%	3.30%	2.35%
SK	2.90%	1.60%	4.40%	3.10%
MB	2.35%	1.10%	3.20%	2.40%
ON	1.20%	0.50%	2.10%	1.20%
QC	1.55%	0.60%	2.70%	1.60%
NB	1.85%	1.20%	3.60%	2.00%
NS	1.90%	1.25%	2.90%	2.00%
PEI	3.90%	3.00%	5.00%	4.10%
Canada	2.35%			2.50%

**The Cash Flow Advantage of Renting -** Renting continues to offer a cash flow advantage over taking on debt to purchase new land, though this specific advantage remained "nearly unchanged" in Saskatchewan over the past year.

**Long-Term Affordability Gap -** Since 2021, the cash flow advantage of renting farmland in Saskatchewan instead of buying it has increased by \$55 per acre.

These findings reinforce issues highlighted in APAS’s ongoing farmland review. The rapid increase in land prices—detached from rental and productive returns—is driven by speculative, debt-fueled aggregation. This trend inflates the market, placing farmland ownership increasingly out of reach for local, young, and aspiring producers.

## Member Offer from Princess Auto



**VALID FROM MAY 1 TO 31, 2026**

\*Discount applies to regular-priced items only. The \$75 spend total applies to both regular-priced and on-sale items. Limit one coupon per household. Valid for in-store purchases only. Not valid with other promotions or in conjunction with a Princess Auto Team Member discount. This coupon cannot be redeemed for cash and cannot be applied to the purchase of gift cards, donations or prepaid products. Coupon limited to stock on hand while supplies last. Discount is deducted on pre-tax total.



From May 1st to May 31st, 2026, you can take advantage of a digital coupon offering:

- 15% off regular priced items on purchases over \$75
- Valid in store only
- Single use per customer

## Federal Government Spring Economic Update

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## The Spring Economic Update Outlined

key measures impacting agriculture, aligning with APAS's focus on food security, trade infrastructure, and interprovincial trade. However, there are concerns about unintended impacts on producers.

### Highlights

1. **CFIA & Pesticide Regulatory Directorate Legislative Reform**  
The government plans to amend the mandates of the CFIA and PRD (formerly the PMRA) to address food security and enhance supply chain efficiency.
2. **Health Canada's Economic Analysis Expansion (\$24M over 4 years)**  
Intended to enhance pest control product reviews and analysis, this funding may introduce fees that impact farmers financially.
3. **Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on Sales**  
This facilitates easier interprovincial sales, reducing regulatory barriers for producers.
4. **Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (\$5B)**  
A significant investment aimed at improving trade infrastructure, thus boosting Canada's market position and addressing export bottlenecks.

### Conclusion

Key positive strides have been made, yet there are valid concerns about cost impacts and regulatory burdens on farmers. APAS is dedicated to ensuring these developments truly benefit the agricultural sector.

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