

Ag Matters

June 19, 2025



Welcome to Saskatchewan
Minister MacDonald!



Federal Agriculture Minister, Heath MacDonald (left) and APAS President Bill Prybylski discussing Saskatchewan ag priorities.

On June 14, 2025, APAS hosted federal Ag Minister, Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Ag Minister, Daryl Harrison.

In a meeting hosted by the APAS Board Executive, federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, Daryl Harrison met at Senator Todd Lewis's farm to discuss pivotal issues facing our agricultural sector. The conversation focused on:

1. **Trade, Tariffs and Trade Infrastructure**
2. **Risk Management**
3. **Supply Chain Reliability**
4. **Red Tape Reduction**

Beyond the critical discussions, the visit underscored a foundational element of success—relationship building. Face-to-face interactions provide a unique opportunity for open dialogue, setting the stage for a partnership approach to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This meeting highlights a commitment to understanding and jointly tackling the issues that matter most to Saskatchewan's farming community. As relationships strengthen, so too does our potential for progress.



Minister Harrison and Minister MacDonald



Roundtable Discussion



L-R Chris Procyk, Senator Todd Lewis, Minister MacDonald, Minister Harrison, Bill Prybylski, Jeremy Welter

Railway Competition

FLIP THE SWITCH FOR MORE COMPETITION

Extended Interswitching increases competition and benefits Canada's economy.

Visit interswitching.ca



APAS is a member of the **Flip the Switch** campaign advocating for more railway competition.

- **Support for Rail Policy:** Welcomes the Liberal Party's commitment to renew the extended rail interswitching pilot for three years.
- **Benefits:** Extended interswitching reduces costs, improves rail service access, and supports farmers and businesses in meeting market demands.

- **Proven Success:** Past pilots showed clear economic and competitive advantages for agriculture and Canada's economy.
- **Advocacy:** Calls for permanency, expanding the radial distance to 500km, including British Columbia, and ensuring it applies to all Class 1 carriers.
- **Offer to Assist:** Flip the Switch is ready to support the Minister and her department in implementing this policy.

Why It Matters for Saskatchewan Farmers

This policy is crucial for Saskatchewan farmers, ensuring competitive rail options that can significantly reduce transportation costs and enhance market access, vital for the profitability and sustainability of their operations.

[Learn More About Flip the Switch](#)

Saskatchewan Surface Rights Act



"The proposed changes represent a significant shift in land management policy, raising critical concerns for Saskatchewan's agricultural producers."

APAS President, Bill Prybylski

Key issues identified by APAS include:

1. Landowner Consent Rights - The proposed amendments diminish landowner negotiation rights, transferring unresolved disputes to arbitration.
2. Compensation Uncertainty - Compensation mechanisms lack clarity and fail to address potential adverse impacts of CO2 project infrastructure.
3. Abandonment and Reclamation - Current reclamation and monitoring standards are insufficient, posing risks to soil health and agricultural productivity.
4. Weeds, Pests, and Biosecurity - CO2 infrastructure introduces heightened risks for weed and pest management, requiring stronger enforcement measures.

5. Consultation Process - The timing overlapped the spring preparation and seeding period, limiting meaningful participation. APAS recommends consultations be held during the off-season for agriculture.

APAS does not support the inclusion of CO2 injection projects under the current Act and urges a comprehensive review to address longstanding issues related to landowner rights, mineral extraction, and sustainable land management.

Applications Open for the APAS Young Leaders Program



Young Leaders Program

Overview

The APAS Young Leaders Program brings together interested young farmers between the ages of 18 and 40 to:

- Enhance leadership skills.
- Deepen understanding of agriculture policy development and advocacy.
- Understand how policy decisions are influenced.
- Expand professional networks.
- Achieve governance training credentials.
- Enhance understanding of the socioeconomic impacts of agriculture within the Canadian context.

Participants will learn and contribute to various agricultural policy avenues, including grassroots policy development and advocacy. The program expects participants to emerge as effective leaders at local, provincial, and national levels in agriculture.

Objectives

- Enhance participants' leadership skills.
- Provide board governance credentials.
- Provide experiential learning in governance processes and agriculture policy development.
- Demonstrate methods to influence government and industry decisions.
- Facilitate networking opportunities for broader agricultural insights in Saskatchewan and across Canada.
- Cultivate the next generation of agricultural and community leaders.

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Young Leaders Program

Program at a Glance

In collaboration with the AFAC Board, prior participants, and other young producers, participants will engage in grassroots policy development by:

- Participating in APAS District meetings.
- Joining APAS Policy Committees and attending meetings.
- Attending APAS board meetings.
- Participating in the APAS Policy Conference.
- Participating in the resolution process at the AFAC AGM.
- Presenting, advocating, and debating resolutions at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) AGM.
- Attending the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers meeting.
- Completing a comprehensive governance training certificate.
- Actively engage with elected officials.

Throughout the year, participants will witness and influence the formation of current agricultural issues into actionable policy resolutions. These resolutions are subsequently transformed into formal submissions addressed to government and industry stakeholders. Participants will be mentored in formal board settings and hone their skills in presenting and advocating for resolutions during Annual General Meetings. Additionally, they will engage with elected officials from Saskatchewan and Canada, refining their ability to engage in impactful introductions and conversations to maximize influence and build relationships.

These activities offer a unique opportunity for participants to actively contribute to policy development and gain firsthand experience in agricultural governance and advocacy.

Optional Additions

Tailored to each cohort based on their experience and interests:

- Tour of sponsor offices.
- Tour of the Saskatchewan Legislature.
- Presence in booths at AgBioscience, Crop Production Show, Ag in Motion.
- Public speaking/media training.
- Attendance at the Sask Young Ag Conference and Women in Ag Conference.

Continuing Benefits

The network that the participants will have built throughout their time in the program will continue to benefit them in whatever role they choose to take on in agriculture. They will also have a strong understanding of board and committee mechanisms, governance, and importance making them a fantastic candidate to be involved in other organizations or continue to work with APAS.

For participants from non-member BAs, they will be supported by one of their board members to present to their BA council the benefits of being an APAS member and their experience with the program, helping to broaden the reach and influence of the APAS Young Leaders Program and showcase their involvement in leading the agriculture sector in their local BA Council.

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Timeline

August Applications close August 31

September Successful applicants announced

October Onboarding with district meetings and board meeting

December AGM: Welcome mixer and attendance at AGM and board meeting

January Board governance certifications, policy committee selection and engagement

February CFA: Attend CFA AGM in Ottawa and APAS board meeting

March APAS Policy Conference

April

June Board, District and Committee Meetings

July CFA Board and FPT Agriculture Ministers meeting

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[Apply Here](#)

APAS in the News

[Federal Ag Minister in Saskatchewan \(June 15\) CTV News](#)

[Trade and Tariffs \(June 6\) Sasktoday](#)

APAS is 100% Independent!

In the complex world of agriculture, it's essential for Saskatchewan farmers to have a strong, independent voice. APAS stands out for its complete autonomy. Operating without any financial support from provincial or federal governments, APAS dedicates itself solely to the interests of farmers.

Why is Independence Important?

For APAS, complete independence ensures that the advocacy and policies developed and moved forward are in the best interests of farmers and free from any external influences. Whether it's negotiating with governments, corporations, or other entities, APAS's independence allows for representation of the needs and priorities of Saskatchewan producers. Period!

What Does This Mean for Members?

For members, APAS's independence translates to genuine advocacy. When APAS speaks, stakeholders know that the voice they hear is straight from the heart of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector, untainted by outside influence. This unique position empowers APAS to fight for better policies, improved market access, and stronger support systems that directly benefit farmers.

Join APAS Today

Ask your RM to ensure that agricultural advocacy is **powerful, independent, and unequivocally** for the farmer.

For more information, reach out to Curtis Hemming directly.

 Call: 306-789-5173

 Email: chemming@apas.ca

Did You Know APAS is a Member-Owner of Co-operators?

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