



APAS calls for consultation with Federal Transport Minister on CTA Review

August 18, 2016 – For Immediate Release - APAS President Norm Hall called today on Federal Transport Minister Garneau to follow through on [Liberal Party commitments to consult directly with prairie producers on rail transportation provisions in the Canadian Transportation Act review](#).

“Today, producer groups had an opportunity to meet with Agriculture Minister MacAulay and Minister Goodale to briefly discuss our policy priorities for the CTA Review. We respectfully request the same opportunity to meet with Minister Garneau and his officials on this crucial consultation” Hall said today. “This would be consistent with federal Liberal election commitments, and the Prime Minister’s mandate letter, for the Minister to consult with producers.”

The [Liberal Party response to the APAS 2015 Federal Election questionnaire](#) contains the following commitment:

As soon as the (CTA) review report is available, the reaction and advice of grain producers needs to be sought on an urgent basis. The goal of a Trudeau-led Liberal government will be competent, forward-looking system that is competitive, transparent, accountable and geared for growth. Since producers always end up paying all the costs, their interests need to be effectively represented in the system’s design and operation.

“To date, that commitment has yet to be met,” Hall continued. “Transport Canada consultations on the CTA Review are set to conclude on September 16, which is very bad timing for prairie producers given harvest, and producer groups have yet to meet with the Transport Minister despite repeated requests.”

“The stakes in this discussion are very high for producers,” Hall concluded. “We are totally dependent on a virtual monopoly to transport our grain, and proper regulation of the rail system is essential for our industry.”

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For more information
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APAS is Saskatchewan’s general farm organization formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of



agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society.