



APAS pleased with Churchill railway deal, calls for re-opening of CN Tisdale rail subdivision

June 11, 2018 – For Immediate Release – The president of APAS has written to federal government Ministers commending them for reaching an agreement in principle to facilitate the transfer of ownership of the Hudson Bay Rail line and Port of Churchill.

“The Port of Churchill’s future success is very important to Saskatchewan agricultural producers,” Lewis wrote. “Churchill is the closest tide water port for a significant grain growing region in North East Saskatchewan. The Port provides favourable access to European and African markets and will likely be the only port in Canada to offer independent grain handling and vessel loading services.”

Lewis continued that APAS is pleased to see the transfer of ownership occurring with the recent passage of Bill C-49 *the Transportation Modernization Act*.

“We believe the provisions in Bill C-49 will improve rail service to all ports in Canada, including the Port of Churchill.”

APAS Vice President Ian Boxall of Tisdale believes an important part of the deal to ensure the Port of Churchill’s commercial success is a plan for the rehabilitation and re-opening of CN’s Tisdale Subdivision from Crooked River to Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. This line is currently inactive.

“The closure of the Tisdale Subdivision requires grain from North East Saskatchewan to travel hundreds of kilometres further than necessary to reach the rail head at the Pas, Manitoba,” Boxall explained. “Once the port reopens for grain shipments, we are concerned that these additional freight costs will continue to undermine Churchill’s commercial potential.”

APAS has also written to senior management at Canadian National Railways to stress the importance of the Tisdale rail line and to request comment on a plan to restore service that would support the Hudson Bay Railway and Port of Churchill.

-30-

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Colleen Hennan
Communications and Community Relations Coordinator
Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan
(306) 789-7774 ext. 6
chennan@apas.ca



Background: APAS is Saskatchewan’s general farm organization – formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer-run organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers and ranchers 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. APAS is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.