



APAS responds to appointment of Federal Cabinet, calls for carbon tax exemption

Nov 20, 2019 – For Immediate Release –The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan is welcoming the re-appointment of Marie-Claude Bibeau as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and has asked her to work with new Environment Minister Jonathon Wilkinson to exempt fuel used to dry grain from the Federal Carbon tax immediately, and to engage on further discussions about agriculture’s role in fighting climate change and how the tax is adversely affecting Saskatchewan producers.

We have found Ms. Bibeau to be very open to discussion, and we call on her to work with the new Federal Environment Minister to bring in exemptions from the carbon tax for natural gas and propane used in grain drying.

“Prairie producers have faced unprecedented challenges with damp harvest conditions, and millions of bushels of grains and oilseeds must be dried to prevent the crop from rotting.” Lewis explained, “These are totally unavoidable costs, and the imposition of the carbon tax has added millions of dollars in extra bills that are going to be hard to pay in a difficult year. On some bills the carbon tax is a surcharge of 40% on the commodity cost of propane and natural gas. And then there’s GST on top.”

Lewis said that initial estimates of costs done by APAS in April 2019 indicated an additional per acre cost of .36 cents to 89 cents per acre, but said that those costs may be too low considering the damp conditions and APAS is updating the numbers. “More grain is being dried all over the Prairies than we have ever seen, and producers have been very startled at the extra cost of the tax when they get their bills.”

Lewis concluded by saying that APAS is looking forward to engaging with the newly appointed Ministers on the need for immediate exemptions as a first order of business.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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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.