



## **APAS re-elects President at 2021 AGM, passes resolution rejecting Grains Code of Practice**

March 30, 2021 (Regina, SK) – For Immediate Release – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) held its 2021 Annual General Meeting on March 30, 2021. Following the meeting, the APAS Board of Directors re-elected Todd Lewis, APAS Representative for RM of Lajord #128, as President for 2021.

Lewis farms at Gray, Saskatchewan with his family, and was first elected to the position at the end of 2016. Ian Boxall of Tisdale and Bill Prybylski of Willowbrook were re-elected as Vice Presidents.

APAS Representatives also elected six Directors to the APAS board for a two-year term. Those individuals are highlighted in bold.

District One

Wanda Reid RM of Golden West #95

**Steven Donald RM of Martin #122**

District Two

**Todd Lewis RM of Lajord #128**

**Bev Pirio RM of Laurier #38**

District Three

**Don Connick RM of Carmichael #109**

Devin Harlick RM of Piapot #110

District Four

**Ian Boxall RM of Connaught #457**

Bill Prybylski RM of Garry #245

District Five

Donavon Block RM of Leroy, #339

**One position to be elected in April**

District Six

**Scott Owens RM of Eldon #471**

Jeremy Welter RM of Mariposa #350

Six resolutions were considered and passed during the virtual Annual General Meeting (please see appendix for complete resolutions). Delegates approved a motion calling for the rejection of the Grains code of practice and adopted 43 recommendations developed by the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force on internet and cell service.

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

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**Background:** Founded in 2000 by farmers, APAS is Saskatchewan's democratic, non-partisan agricultural policy and advocacy organization. APAS tackles agriculture's most important problems and offers practical solutions to provincial and national decision makers.



## Resolutions Passed at 2021 APAS General Meeting

### RURAL CONNECTIVITY

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Meeting ratify the recommendations contained in the APAS Rural Connectivity Task Force Report as presented.

### LAND & ENVIRONMENT

#### *Sask Power Fire Hazards and Claims Processes*

**WHEREAS** As of March 2017, SaskPower amended their guidelines with respect to Firefighting claims on private property;

**WHEREAS** There have been multiple incidences since then where SaskPower has refused to compensate for Fire Fighting Claims resulting from downed powerlines;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS lobby SaskPower and the Minister Responsible for SaskPower to review their guidelines with respect to Fire Fighting Claims and to consult with volunteer Fire Departments and landowners in that review process;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APAS encourage SaskPower to immediately launch a program to identify potential fire hazard areas in consultation with landowners, address any potential liability issues, and take remedial actions.

#### *Responsible Grains Code of Practice*

**WHEREAS** The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) has developed a draft voluntary Code of Practice for Grain Production (Responsible Grain);

**WHEREAS** Canadian grain is of high quality and produced in accordance with science-based standards and regulations covering crop protection products, land-use management and environmental stewardship;

**WHEREAS** the Code is national in scope and contains recommendations that are inconsistent with the need to adapt farm practices to weather and production conditions that vary across regions and provinces;

**WHEREAS** there is considerable overlap but lack of integration between the Code and existing provincial Environmental Farm Plans, market-specific sustainability programs, and voluntary conservation projects;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS reject the proposed Code of Practice for grain production; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) be encouraged to promote current farm practices and regulations and only proceed with additional “assurance benchmarks” that address a clear need/market risk, are producer driven, and recognize the value of current responsible stewardship practices.

## **CROPS & TRANSPORTATION**

### ***Wildlife Damage Programs for Grain in Temporary Storage***

**WHEREAS** the use of grain bags and other temporary storage systems is increasingly common and sometimes essential practice for Saskatchewan farm operations;

**WHEREAS** grain in temporary storage is not afforded the same level of wildlife damage compensation and prevention program options available for stacked hay, silage and bales;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS request that wildlife damage compensation and prevention programs be expanded to cover harvested production stored in grain bags and other temporary storage systems until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Port of Vancouver Governance Reform***

**WHEREAS** Transport Canada is currently undertaking a Ports Modernization Review;

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan producers and other export industries have become increasingly reliant on the Port of Vancouver for trade and market access;

**WHEREAS** western Canadian provinces, as a group, ship up to 85% of the Port of Vancouver’s export value but only have 9% of the representation on its Board of Directors;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS strongly support the request that Port of Vancouver governance structure be updated to include greater representation from western provincial governments and the export dependent industries in their jurisdictions.

### ***Conversion of Grain Weight to Dry Matter Basis***

**WHEREAS** producers can face significant price discounts when selling grain that exceeds Canadian Grain Commission’s (CGC) minimum moisture level for dry grain;

**WHEREAS** there is often no corresponding premium for grain that is lower than the minimum standards which can also result in a price reduction due to its lower weight;

**WHEREAS** there are federal regulations and standards in other industries, including the fuel industry, to correct for these types of discrepancies using regulated “conversion factors”;



**BE IT RESOLVED** that APAS request the federal government to establish a conversion factor for grains and oilseed that calculates weight on a “dry matter basis”, such that the weight of grain at final settlement is calculated at its minimum dry moisture level (e.g. 14.5% for wheat).

***Producer Car Access to Port Terminals***

**WHEREAS** producer car shipments are an important feature of Canada’s grain industry that promote competition and market diversification;

**WHEREAS** limited access to Port handling capacity and the unreasonable cost of services have combined to hinder producer car usage in recent years;

**WHEREAS** the Canada Grain Act contains provisions concerning producers’ right to “railway cars” while designating primary and terminal elevators to be “works in the general advantage of Canada”;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Grain Commission use its authority under the Canada Grain Act to ensure producer car shipments are provided access to Port handling and loading services at competitive rates.