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APAS Calls for Next Policy Framework to Become Nation-Building Strategy

Urges shift from status quo policy to bold, purpose-driven growth strategy and supports naming ministers' statement the "Statement on the Economic Capacity of Canadian Agriculture"

REGINA, SK – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is urging a transformative approach to the upcoming Next Agricultural Policy Framework (NPF), positioning it as a nation-building strategy that drives economic growth, strengthens competitiveness, and unlocks the full potential of Canadian agriculture.

APAS has already voiced this position during consultations with the Government of Saskatchewan, emphasizing the need for a coordinated strategy that leverages agriculture as a pivotal economic sector.

"This isn't about incremental change. This is about recognizing agriculture as a nation-building industry and creating a framework that reflects that reality," said APAS President Bill Prybylski. He recently shared this view with federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald during a recent consultation in Regina.

The next Policy Statement will replace the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership when it expires March 31, 2028, and will set the direction for Canada's agriculture sector. APAS is calling for a shift away from a compliance-focused approach toward a purpose-driven strategy focused on long-term growth and competitiveness.

"The decisions made through the Next Policy Framework will shape the future of agriculture in Canada. The framework must recognize agriculture's vital contribution to our nation's prosperity and its role as a key driver of the Canadian economy," Prybylski added.

APAS has identified six priority areas for the Next Policy Framework:

1. Economic Growth and Competitiveness
2. Innovation, Technology and Business Resilience
3. Supply Chain Efficiency, Trade & Market Diversification
4. Climate Adaptation, Water & Soil Resiliency
5. Value-Added Processing & Red Tape Reduction
6. Farm Transition

APAS is also calling for farm transition to be recognized as a central pillar of the NPF. APAS stresses the economic importance of farm transitions, viewing effective policy support in this area as crucial for sectoral sustainability and growth.

"Farm transition isn't just a family succession planning issue – it's a national economic issue," Prybylski said. "If we want a competitive and growing sector, we need policies that remove tax disincentives and support effective transition planning and access to capital for the next generation."

With discussions expected at this summer's federal-provincial-territorial meeting in Halifax, APAS proposes governments reflect on agriculture's broader role in the national economy, underscoring the sector's importance to Canada's economic strategy.

APAS continues to work closely with provincial and federal entities to ensure that the views of Saskatchewan's producers influence the future of agricultural policies, aiming to establish a framework that drives growth and supports rural communities across Canada.

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