



NEWS RELEASE

MCPA Responds to Throne Speech

December 4, 2009 (WINNIPEG, MB) - Agriculture currently accounts for one third of Manitoba's total annual revenue. Given the important role this industry plays in our province, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (MCPA) was disappointed by the lack of regard for agriculture demonstrated by Premier Greg Selinger in the Throne Speech on November 30, 2009.

"Farmers and rural communities are struggling. Our small towns are disappearing, and more than ever, our farmers need their government's support," says Joe Bouchard, President, MCPA. "That's why it was so disappointing to have no mention of agriculture in the Throne Speech. Premier Selinger is making lots of promises, but none to an industry that generates so much for the province."

MCPA has met with the provincial government several times in the past year, including Premier Selinger as Minister of Finance, to discuss the many issues facing the cattle industry. The Association has presented several viable solutions for sustaining and improving the face of agriculture in Manitoba. Proposed solutions include an Ecological Goods & Services Program, insurance programs for the cattle industry, and a freight assistance program that will improve feed options while also reducing stubble burning and the negative effects it has on nearby towns and cities.

To date, there has been no commitment from the province to allocate funds to these programs or to move forward on other initiatives that would ensure a viable, productive, and sustainable agriculture industry.

"We hope that the province will keep this in mind and see the value in investing in agriculture in Manitoba when planning their budget next year," says Bouchard. "We hope that this oversight will not happen again."

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association aims to be the exclusive voice of the cattle industry in Manitoba through communication, advocacy, research and education within industry and to government, consumers and others, to improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future. The Association represents 10,000 cattle producers across the province.

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