

# Vision. Change. Progress.

---

## McFADYEN 2011

September 24, 2011

Cam Dahl  
General Manager  
Manitoba Beef Producers  
[cdahl@mbbeef.ca](mailto:cdahl@mbbeef.ca)

Dear Mr. Dahl:

Thank you for your recent letter and accompanying survey requesting our Party's position on a number of issues important to Manitoba Beef Producers. I am pleased to provide the following responses on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba.

1. Do you and your party support compensating producers for the costs they incur in the provision of public goods, which benefit the province as a whole?

*We will work with the agricultural sector to examine ways to help offset some of the costs borne in providing public goods that benefit society. For example, if we form government, we would implement a voluntary Environmental Goods and Services program to support conservation of wetland and riparian areas in which interested producers could participate.*

2. If elected, will you work with the Manitoba Beef Producers to help ensure that public good programs are designed in cooperation with the industry and delivered by producers?

*We will work to ensure that public good programs are developed in cooperation with industry. In principle, we believe there are merits in such programs being delivered by producers, recognizing however that there may be specific financial delivery, legislative or regulatory requirements that require the involvement of governments.*

3. Do you support returning the responsibility for delivery of the Verified Beef Program to producers?

*We are willing to discuss this with industry.*

**PC Party of Manitoba, 23 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 1S5**  
**Phone: 204.942.8283 Toll Free: 1.800.663-8679 FAX: 204.943.1706**  
**[www.pcmantoba.com](http://www.pcmantoba.com)**

## Water Management

4. Do you commit to a holistic approach to investments in water management infrastructure to ensure that the flood of 2011 is not repeated?

*Manitoba's PCs firmly believe that strategic, long-term investments in the province's water management infrastructure could have helped prevent some of the devastating effects of this year's flood. We believe a comprehensive review of the 2011 flood's handling is needed to determine shortcomings in the current flood protection systems and to help prioritize future projects. Any water management strategy must take into account a broad range of issues, including storage, drainage and future infrastructure investments. We are fully committed to the development of that strategy, recognizing that it will pay long-term dividends for Manitobans.*

5. What specific investments in water management infrastructure will your party make if you form government?

*We have raised concerns about the NDP government's failure to undertake the needed upgrades to the dikes along the Assiniboine River in a timely fashion, and their failure to deliver on the promised upgrades to the Shellmouth Dam leaf gates. These upgrades need to be completed. We are committed to completing the emergency channels to lower Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. As previously indicated, a review of the handling of the 2011 flood would help identify additional vulnerabilities in the current flood protection system. We are committed to addressing those on a priority basis.*

6. What lakes and watersheds will be included in your party's infrastructure investment plans if you form government?

*We believe a province-wide water management strategy is required. We will work with a broad range of stakeholders, including the agricultural sector, the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and others, to develop that strategy. We will identify areas that require immediate attention to reduce the risk of flooding. And a long-term approach is required to will address matters such as: temporary water retention; storage; preparing for future droughts; and the needs of communities and industries for potable water.*

### **Strong Science Based Regulations**

7. Do you, as an individual candidate, support basing environmental and health legislation and regulations on strong, peer reviewed, science?

*Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives believe environmental legislation and regulations should be based on sound science.*

8. Will you commit to effective consultation with the Manitoba Beef Producers prior to your Party enacting any new legislation or regulations that will impact the economic viability of the beef sector?

*Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives are committed to stakeholder consultation on legislation or regulations that affect a given sector.*

### **Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council**

9. Do you and your party support eliminating the per head check-off collected on sales of Manitoba cattle that is currently going to the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council (MCEC)?

*Yes, we have committed to this. Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives are also committed to expanding slaughter capacity in our province, and we will listen to and work in concert with producers and other industry stakeholders to develop strategies to make that happen.*

### **Animal Health**

10. If elected will you work with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that beef producers are compensated for the full cost incurred when they are required to test their herds as part of the TB eradication program in the area surrounding Riding Mountain National Park?

*Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives were supportive of the Manitoba Bovine TB Mustering Compensation Program, although we recognize that it did not cover all costs incurred by producers. We are willing to examine the level of provincial assistance provided to producers for herd testing. We would also discuss with the federal government their willingness to participate in such a program.*

11. Will you and your Party support the appointment of a TB coordinator, reporting to Ministers, who will be given the responsibility for the eradication of TB in the Riding Mountain National Park ecosystem?

*We would be willing to consider this, based on discussions with stakeholders and the federal government.*

12. Do you support Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives taking over management of the TB eradication programs (under the *Animal Diseases Act*)?

*We would be willing to consider the feasibility of this, based on discussions with stakeholders and the federal government.*

### **Business Risk Management**

13. If elected will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that disaster assistance programs are modernized to meet the needs of today's beef producer?

*We agree that in light of the 2011 flood and other recent events, disaster assistance programs need to be reviewed to ensure they are current and responsive to users' needs.*

14. Do you and your party support giving beef producers access to an insurance program, much like the current crop insurance programs available to grains and oilseed producers?

*We support the implementation of a one-year pilot project and based on outcomes, would be prepared to examine the next steps in implementing a permanent program.*

### **Environmental Initiatives**

15. Do you and your Party commit to ensuring that all environmental legislation, regulations and policy are based on strong, peer reviewed science?

*Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives believe environmental legislation, regulations and policy should be based on sound science.*

16. Do you and your Party commit to ensuring that all of Manitoba's beef producers have equitable access to funding for environmental initiatives?

*Qualifying producers should be able to access programs.*

17. Do you and your Party commit to full and effective consultations with Manitoba Beef Producers before the initiation of any new environmental policy, regulation or legislation?

*We are committed to stakeholder consultation on legislation, regulations or policies that affect a given sector.*

18. Will you commit to working with Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that producers retain control for the delivery of environmental stewardship programs?

*We are willing to explore that with industry, recognizing however that there may be specific financial delivery, legislative or regulatory requirements that require the involvement of governments.*

### **Herd Protection Initiatives**

19. If elected, will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that the Province of Manitoba develops adequate measures to protect our herds from problem predators?

*Yes. We will work with all stakeholders to develop strategies aimed at reducing problem predator attacks on livestock while at the same time balancing the need to protect wildlife.*

20. Do you and your Party support compensating producers for 100% of predation losses?

*We are committed to pursuing this with the federal government.*

### **Crown Land Management**

21. Do you and your Party support the principle of "consent" before the public accesses Crown land?

*We know there are serious challenges around the public accessing producer-managed agricultural Crown land, including biosecurity issues and the risk of injury. We are*

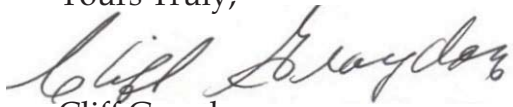
*willing to work with the Manitoba Beef Producers to determine if there is a legislative framework under which the principle of consent can be achieved. Issues of liability will also need to be examined.*

22. If elected will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to reduce the red tape for producers who wish to purchase the Crown land they currently lease?

*We have heard from many stakeholders concerned about the management of agricultural Crown lands. We believe it is time to review agricultural Crown lands policies to ensure they meet the current needs of producers. This will help ensure producer confidence when it comes to the processes surrounding the lease or purchase of Crown lands, or any re-classification being made to Crown lands.*

The Progressive Conservative Party looks forward to working with your organization if elected to government on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Graydon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cliff Graydon

PC Critic for Agriculture and Food