



## **Manitoba Beef Producers** **ELECTION PLATFORM AND QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Manitoba Beef Producer's Place in the Economy**

Agriculture is an economic driver in Manitoba. The industry makes up about 28% of the province's GDP and is Manitoba's single largest wealth-generating activity.

Beef production represents Manitoba's single largest agricultural sector in terms of the number of individual farm operations. About 98% of individual commercial beef cattle operations in Manitoba are cow-calf producers. Feedlots make up the remaining 2% of commercial beef operations. Our industry plays a vital role in the maintenance of Manitoba's economic and environmental sustainability.

The economic impact of Manitoba's beef producers is large. On an annual basis Manitoba's beef cattle industry purchases over \$300 million in feed. Beyond feed, beef producers purchase \$225 million in operating inputs each and every year. The value of goods and services demanded by Manitoba's beef operations is about \$635 million annually.

Our industry's demand-creation power of \$635 million per year means that not only can our rural communities continue to survive but also that Winnipeg, Brandon, and other major urban centers can continue to receive the extensive economic derivatives of our industry's wealth creation.

Our industry's economic spin-offs help lead the growth of the rest of the province's business community.

We are one of Manitoba's leading industries. Beef producers matter to Manitoba's economy. How Government policies, regulations and legislation impact our industry should matter to all parties and candidates running in this general election.

Manitoba Beef Producers have designed a series of policy positions that will help correct current policy deficiencies. Movement on these policy areas will help drive investment into Manitoba and ensure the economic health of one of our province's most important sectors.

*my farm, your family, our future*

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MANITOBA CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

# Manitoba Beef Producers

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES

### **Provision of Public Goods**

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

### **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?
5. What specific investments in water management infrastructure will your party make if you form government?
6. What lakes and watersheds will be included in your party's infrastructure investment plans if you form government?

### **Strong Science Based Regulations**

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

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

### **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?
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?

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

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

### **Herd Protection Initiatives**

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

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

### **Crown Land Management**

21. Do you and your Party support the principle of “consent” before the public accesses Crown Land?

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?