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# PRESS RELEASE

## MBP Congratulates Conservative Party of Canada on Federal Election Majority Win

**May 3, 2011 (WINNIPEG, MB)** – Manitoba Beef Producers congratulates the Conservative Party of Canada and its leader Prime Minister Stephen Harper for their majority win of the 2011 federal election on May 2, 2011. “MBP looks forward to its continued good working relationship with this government. A strong working relationship is vital in order to work toward the resolution of the challenges the beef industry faces and to ensure the long term viability of the cattle industry provincially and nationally,” said Major Jay Fox, President of the Manitoba Beef Producers.

Fox stated that MBP also wishes to extend their congratulations to the NDP party, as the now established official opposition, and added: “Congratulations must also be voiced to the re-elected and newly appointed MP’s who won in their individual ridings – both nationally and in the province of Manitoba. We greatly anticipate working with all government departments on the current files and programs needed for Manitoba’s beef industry. We therefore not only look forward to our continued work with our well-known MP’s, but also greatly look forward to forging relationships with those MP’s newly elected.

Among the number of key issues that require resolve for the beef producers in Manitoba are the following:

**1) EG&S (Environmental Goods and Services)**

- A sensible program must be put in place that demonstrates the environmental benefit of cattle on the landscape by providing an offset or payment which reflects an appreciation for carbon offsets, etc.

**2) Bovine Tuberculosis**

- TB is an ongoing challenge in the Riding Mountain National Park, particularly to those producers in the RMEA (Eradication Area). The spread of this disease must be stopped. It is critical therefore that the federal government upholds its long term commitment to the TB eradication strategy with the goal of eradicating TB not just in livestock, which creates many associated costs to producers, but to all affected species, including wildlife.

**3) Traceability**

- Consensus can be found on the need for a national traceability system, but we must continue to ensure that traceability does not affect commerce and impose additional input costs and management practices onto producers. Therefore, it is critical that the voice of the industry is significantly weighed in the development of an all-encompassing national traceability system.

**4) Flooding**

- Due to extreme excess moisture and flooding conditions of the last number of years, support must be provided to those producers dealing with repeated high water levels and flood related crises. Bankable and predictable business risk management programs are just one aspect to the long term strategy and solutions that are required, and these must incorporate a clear trigger process for program commencement.

“Challenges in the beef industry in Manitoba have a ripple effect throughout the entire provincial economy, reducing opportunities for all Manitobans”, said Fox. “MBP has brought forward a number of recommendations and programs aimed at both stabilizing and strengthening our industry. Manitoba’s cattle industry greatly appreciates the support it has received to date from this government and given the critical role that the beef industry plays in maintaining the health of our provincial and national economies, it is essential that issues like these are addressed. We look forward to working together to resolve these issues for our beef producers. We are deeply committed to seeing our industry succeed and look forward to our current federal government mirroring this same level of commitment,” said Fox.

*Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. We provide this representation within industry, to government, to the beef consumer and general public. These efforts take place to strengthen our industry viability, improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future for the beef industry in Manitoba for the benefit of all our producers. The Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.*

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