



NEWS RELEASE

“The Voice of Manitoba Farmers”

203-1700 Ellice Ave. ~ Winnipeg MB ~ R3H 0B1

ph: (204) 697-1140 ~ fax: (204) 697-1109

kap@kap.mb.ca ~ www.kap.mb.ca

For immediate release

October 29, 2009

KAP Talks Land Use

Winnipeg – Land use and the importance of agriculture in Manitoba was the focus of a breakfast meeting for land use planners hosted in Brandon today by Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP).

Ian Wishart, President of KAP, Manitoba’s largest general farm policy organization, delivered an important message from producers—that land use planning by municipalities needs to focus on the importance of all industries, including agriculture.

Wishart’s speech highlighted the fact that priority should be given to agricultural land uses since the industry is the backbone of many rural communities. He also stressed that land use planners must protect agriculture that exists today and also allow for future diversification.

“Any policy affecting agriculture needs to be based on the pillars of sustainability including economic, social, and environmental development,” said Wishart. “And when it comes to environmental issues, we cannot stress enough that rural municipalities must access the proper expertise to make science-based decisions.”

Wishart reminded attendees that there are numerous regulations in place to ensure that farmers follow a strict set of rules such as Nutrient Management Planning, the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, and the Provincial Land Use Policies also exist to serve as a guideline.

“We need a balanced approach to planning, including designation of areas where agriculture can operate and thrive,” said Wishart. “Producers do not need policies that are restrictive or not firm enough to allow for transparency in the system.”

Around 25 land use planners attended the KAP breakfast meeting held at the Keystone Centre.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Ian Wishart, KAP President. Cell: (204) 856-6964.

Kristen Lucyshyn, KAP Communications. Office: (204) 697-1140. Cell: (204) 792-2661.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba’s largest general farm policy organization, representing over 7,000 farm families and 22 commodity groups throughout the province. Our strength is our democratic structure, and our mission is to represent and promote the interests of the province’s farm families.