



MEDIA RELEASE

“THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS”

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For immediate release

March 2, 2007

KAP Wraps Up MP Meetings In Ottawa

Ottawa – This week, Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) held meetings with MPs and various senior government officials to discuss the critical issues in agriculture.

Focus areas for discussion included business risk management and the development of the next generation of Agricultural Policy Framework programming (APF2). KAP and its farmer-members continue to pursue the opportunities provided by environmental stewardship and alternate energy, so biofuels and the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program were also on the agenda. Rail transportation continues to be a critical issue for Manitoba, and farmers’ concerns with the current system were discussed. KAP also pressed for investment in agriculture to help make farmers and rural communities sustainable.

KAP officials were in Ottawa to attend the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting.

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For more information, please contact:

David Rolfe, KAP President. Cell: (204) 483-0502.

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Robert McLean, KAP Vice President. Cell: (204) 242-4488

Backgrounder: List of meetings.

Please note: *Officials are available in Ottawa until 1:30 pm EST, at which time they will be flying back to Manitoba. Please leave a message with any spokesperson after this time, and they will return the call.*



BACKGROUND

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Meetings with MPs

Monday, February 26

James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake & Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-Food) & Joy Smith (Kildonan-St. Paul): President David Rolfe, VP Robert McLean, and Executive Member Chuck Fossay attended.

Anita Neville (Winnipeg South Centre): VP Ian Wishart, GM Yvonne Rideout, and Executive Member Rob Brunel attended.

Tuesday, February 27

David Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ag Minister): VP Wishart and GM Rideout attended this meeting on behalf of KAP.

Merv Tweed (Brandon-Souris): VP McLean and Executive Member Fossay participated in this meeting.

Inky Mark (Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette): This meeting was led by VP Wishart and GM Rideout.

Wednesday, February 28

Mike Matheson, Ag Advisor to Stephane Dion (Leader of the Liberal Party): VP Wishart and GM Rideout attended this meeting on behalf of KAP.

Alex Atamanenko (NDP Agriculture Critic): VP McLean and Executive Member Fossay participated in this meeting.

Thursday, March 1

Wayne Easter (Liberal Agriculture Critic): VP Wishart, Executive Member Doug Chorney, Executive Member Brunel, and GM Rideout attended this meeting on behalf of KAP.