



TEAMALBERTA ADVANCING POLICY ON BEHALF OF ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR

March 7, 2018

Honourable Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and Parks, and
Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Oneil Carlier
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
af.minister.m@gov.ab.ca

Re: Changes to offsets, carbon pricing and the cropping sector's participation in Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan.

Dear Ministers Phillips and Carlier,

Team Alberta was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with both you and your staff members in September of 2016. At that time, we spoke to you regarding the crop sector's concerns about the incoming carbon levy and the grievances of our farmer members with the efficacy of the Offset Credit System Protocols, specifically the Conservation Cropping Protocol. As a follow-up, Team Alberta conducted a survey of our membership on their environmental practices and adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also asked for feedback on the Agricultural Carbon Offsets and the use of technologies and innovative practices that are congruent with the Climate Leadership Plan. Farming practices based on beneficial management plans will help the Government of Alberta reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Moving to the Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR) that requires farmers to register for their tillage credits with an aggregator prior to the 2018 growing season, along with other proposed changes to additionality and baseline are concerning to our membership. Team Alberta asks the Alberta Government to recognize the emission reductions Alberta farmers have made to date in adoption of best management practices and technologies in absence of regulation. When the Government of Alberta monetizes carbon, you need to account for the carbon mitigation or sequestration that farmers have realized to date. The loss of retroactivity and setting baseline for emissions on a go forward basis without considering the actions our members have taken to date illustrates the strong reluctance for farmers to support the government in this area.

Policies that aim to achieve GHG reductions and the adoption of practice changes must consider producers costs, the impact on their competitiveness and economic viability.

Team Alberta is made up of Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and Alberta Wheat Commission. Together the organizations represent over 20,000 farms across Alberta.





TEAMALBERTA ADVANCING POLICY ON BEHALF OF ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR

Farmers should not be taxed on their carbon emissions without recognition and reward for their voluntary adoption of beneficial management practices and new technologies that remove carbon from the atmosphere.

In 2000, for the first time in Canada's history, agricultural soil sequestered more carbon than was emitted. The agriculture industry achieved this because of a strong commitment to address soil degradation, in response to the loss of soil fertility and devastating erosion during much of the 20th century. Notably, this was achieved in absence of any regulations or carbon pricing.

Alberta's grains and oilseeds sector is an export dependent and trade exposed sector. Therefore, we urge caution with any additional tax burden, intended or unintended, which could decrease the competitiveness of Alberta's primary producers and value-added processors, maltsters, millers, fractionators and oilseed crushers.

Team Alberta is requesting a joint meeting with Minister Phillips and Minister Carlier, as well as a meeting with the Alberta Climate Change Office to discuss the results of our survey (attached). Team Alberta is also requesting to partner with Emissions Reduction Alberta towards further research, technology development and adult education in the areas of Agriculture and climate change mitigation. We would like the opportunity to discuss how the crop sector can be engaged to play a greater role in reducing Alberta's overall emissions. Please contact us at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Jason Lenz
Chair of Alberta Barley

Renn Breikreuz
Chair of Alberta Canola

D'arcy Hilgartner
Chair of Alberta Pulse Growers

Kevin Bender
Chair of Alberta Wheat Commission

Team Alberta is made up of Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and Alberta Wheat Commission. Together the organizations represent over 20,000 farms across Alberta.





TEAMALBERTA ADVANCING POLICY ON BEHALF OF ALBERTA'S CROP SECTOR

Cc: Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Mr. Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks
Mr. Eric Denhoff, Deputy Minister of Alberta Climate Change Office
Ms. Bev Yee, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Steve MacDonald, CEO Emissions Reductions Alberta

*Team Alberta is made up of Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and Alberta Wheat Commission.
Together the organizations represent over 20,000 farms across Alberta.*

