



# TEAMALBERTA

## ADVANCING ALBERTA'S CROPPING SECTOR TO 2025 AND BEYOND

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

1100 - 180 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6  
Canada

Minister Jordan,

Team Alberta wishes to congratulate you on your appointment to Minister of Rural Economic Development. Agriculture is a driving force behind rural economic development and your new position will bring a much-needed focus to the role of rural communities in Canada.

Team Alberta represents over 20,000 farmers on Alberta's four major crop commissions: Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission. We are farmer elected, directed and funded to improve the long-term success of Alberta's growers through research, market development, grower education, public engagement and policy development. Together, we bring a cohesive voice to advise governments on issues that matter most to our growers, such as a strong rural economy.

Alberta's rural economy is highly productive and fundamentally connected to the economic performance of urban areas in Alberta and throughout Canada. In 2017 it represented 41% of total investments and 26% of provincial GDP despite only having 18% of the total provincial population.<sup>1</sup> Agriculture is one of the primary drivers of this economic output. Agriculture employs the largest share of rural workers at 13%; and is one of the top-five drivers of rural GDP. The importance of agriculture in rural economies across Alberta is often highly concentrated. For example, in Alberta's southern region it is responsible for nearly 30% of all employment, 20% of all investments, and 15% of all GDP.

Farming is big business, and agriculture is dependent on technology and infrastructure. Farmers need reliable, high-speed internet to operate their increasingly sophisticated equipment and to manage their businesses. Canada needs robust roads, rail lines, ports, and utilities to unleash the growth potential of our agri-food exports to \$85 billion by 2025. We are pleased to see that increasing rural access to high-speed internet and improving the state of rural infrastructure are within your core mandate as these issues are important to our members.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Economic Contribution of Rural Alberta (2018), AAMDC

### TEAM ALBERTA

Team Alberta is a collaborative initiative led by four of the province's crop commissions. Our commissions are producer elected, directed and funded organizations established to represent the interests of our producers across the province.



Given the intrinsic ties between the Canadian economy, rural communities, and the agriculture industry, we believe that developing a strong and collaborative working relationships with you and your staff through the development of the 'rural development strategy' will be mutually beneficial. We will be in Ottawa on April 9<sup>th</sup>- to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, for one of our semi-annual outreach initiatives. We would be honored to meet with you at this time.

Our commissions are also members of the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) and look forward to connecting with your office through the work of this organization to offer a national perspective on rural issues.

We look forward to connecting with you and discussing how we can collectively improve the performance of our rural economies. We wish you the best in your new role as Minister of Rural Economic Development and look forward to developing a collaborative relationship. Team Alberta will follow up with your office with a formal meeting invitation shortly.

Sincerely,



Gary Stanford  
Alberta Wheat Chair



John Guelly  
Alberta Canola Chair



Dave Bishop,  
Alberta Barley Chair



Don Shepart  
Alberta Pulse Growers Chair

CC:

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
The Honourable Navdeep Singh Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development  
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

#### TEAM ALBERTA

Team Alberta is a collaborative initiative led by four of the province's crop commissions. Our commissions are producer elected, directed and funded organizations established to represent the interests of our producers across the province.

