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June 23, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacDonald,

Subject: Request for Meeting to Discuss Agricultural Policy Priorities for Southeast Alberta

On behalf of the Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce, congratulations on your re-election in Malpeque and your appointment as Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Your experience in economic development and your recent work on the House of Commons Agriculture Committee, combined with your representation in a riding with strong agricultural roots, position you well to lead this vital portfolio.

As a Chamber representing a region deeply rooted in agriculture, we are eager to engage with you on key policy priorities that reflect the needs of producers, processors, and agri-businesses in Southeast Alberta. Our recommendations are informed by direct input from our members and aligned with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's All-In Plan for Canada.

Our top priorities include:

- **Modernizing Business Risk Management Programs:** Ensuring programs like AgriStability and AgriInvest are responsive, predictable, and accessible to producers facing climate and market volatility.
- **Workforce Development:** Addressing labour shortages through immigration reform, skills training, and work integrated learning, while expanding and streamlining the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and immigration pathways to address chronic labour shortages in agriculture and agri-food processing.
- **Reducing regulatory burdens and costs for business:** Streamlining regulatory processes and costs to accelerate business development in the agriculture and agri-food sector.
- **Investing in Water Infrastructure:** Supporting irrigation expansion and water storage projects to enhance drought resilience and productivity in southern Alberta.
- **Enhancing Trade and Market Access:** Strengthening Canada's position in global markets through trade policies, promotion of Canadian products, while reducing trade barriers.
- **Supporting Innovation and Sustainability:** Encouraging adoption of precision agriculture, regenerative practices, and clean technologies through targeted funding and regulatory modernization.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these priorities in more detail and explore how Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada can support the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of our region's agricultural sector.

Please let us know your availability for a meeting in the coming weeks. We are happy to accommodate your schedule and can meet either virtually or in person. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and to working together to support Canadian agriculture.

Sincerely,



Steven Pudwell
2024-2025 President, Board of Directors



Lisa Dressler
Executive Director

cc: MP Glen Motz, Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner Constituency
Cc: MP David Bexte, Bow River Constituency