



**CPP
INVESTMENT
BOARD**

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board
One Queen Street East, Suite 2500
Toronto, ON M5C 2W5 Canada
www.cppib.com

June 15, 2015

Honourable Brad Wall
Premier
Government of Saskatchewan
Room 226, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Honourable Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Government of Saskatchewan
Room 334, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Wall and Minister Stewart,

Re: Saskatchewan Farmland Ownership Consultation

Thank you for providing the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) with the opportunity to make a presentation to the Economic Caucus as a contribution to the Saskatchewan Government's farmland ownership consultation. This summarizes key points we have made to the Government since 2012.

1. CPPIB recognizes the public policy balance that the Government is attempting to achieve, particularly in relation to concerns about foreign ownership of Saskatchewan farmland. CPPIB appreciates the Government's perspective that Saskatchewan farmland should be owned by Canadians. CPPIB clearly meets this test. CPPIB is a quintessentially wholly-owned Canadian entity. The assets that we manage belong to over 18 million contributors and beneficiaries who participate in the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), including more than 700,000 Saskatchewanians.
2. In undertaking farmland investments in Saskatchewan, CPPIB has operated with full transparency and in good faith in all of our dealings with the Government. In January 2013, CPPIB approached Cabinet detailing our proposed agriculture investment strategy for the Province and specifically requesting an indication from the Government on whether CPPIB would be welcome. We continued to keep the Government informed of our investment decisions every step of the way.
3. Having a diverse set of participants actively invest in Saskatchewan's farmland market, including Canadian pension funds, provides stability and liquidity. Diversity of capital has been shown to soften the impact that extended periods of low commodity prices have on farmland values, thereby protect farmer balance sheets and the equity they have in their farms. Additional liquidity provided by a diversity of market participants allows farmers to free up capital that is tied into land to invest elsewhere.
4. Finally, we enclose a copy of our recent presentation to the Saskatchewan Government Economic Caucus which provides fact-based evidence addressing misinformation.



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We respectfully request that CPPIB's position its underlying critical purpose, as well as investor confidence in Saskatchewan be taken into consideration as part of any permanent decisions made to Saskatchewan's farmland ownership laws. We trust that the Saskatchewan Government will ensure that the Province remains open to Canadian investors.

Kindest regards,

Michel Leduc
Senior Managing Director
Head of Public Affairs & Communications

Attachment: May 28, 2015 CPPIB Presentation to the Saskatchewan Government Economic Caucus