



Pork Producers Applaud Canadian Members of Parliament on Historic Debate, and Recognition of Need for Immediate Action

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2008

Ottawa - The Canadian Pork Council extends its congratulations to Members of Parliament for their unprecedented debate on challenges facing the Canadian livestock industry.

An emergency debate, requested by André Bellavance (Richmond-Arthabaska, BQ), on the economic crisis in the livestock industry, lasting more than five hours and finishing at midnight, demonstrated that MPs are well-informed of the liquidity issues and extreme difficulties hog producers currently face in keeping their farms operating. (Transcript available at:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Pub=hansard&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=2#OOB-2320684>)

“We greatly appreciate the informed discussion, as well as the passion, exhibited by so many of our elected officials, from all parties in the House of Commons, for our members’ plight” said Clare Schlegel, President of the Canadian Pork Council. “Many of them truly grasp the severity of the cash flow crisis facing so many of Canada’s excellent young family farmers and their families, and identified time and time again last night the urgent need for the federal government to act promptly on the industry’s recommendations to address the current crisis.”

“However, what is most important to us is the call for action:” added Mr. Schlegel, “we have talked enough and talking doesn’t save farms or families.”

The appreciation of the Canadian dollar, a steep run-up in feed costs, and finally, a downturn in the world pork market, have combined to create extreme losses for pork farmers.

In addition to relief from cost recovery fees and increased support for export market development, the CPC has requested from the federal government repayable loans as a means of tiding producers over until prices have improved, as predicted.

“In addition to M. Bellavance, the CPC wishes to recognize the particular contributions to the discussion by the Hon. Wayne Easter (Malpeque, Lib.), James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake, CPC) and Alex Atamanenko (British Columbia Southern Interior)”, said Mr. Schlegel, who farms in Shakespeare, Ontario.

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