



**Supplementary Recommendations  
of the  
ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE RURAL ECONOMY  
(ACRE)**

**Submitted to the Government of Saskatchewan**

**July 2003**

# ACRE Supplementary Report

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# ACRE Supplementary Recommendations

## Introduction

The province established the Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE) in September 2000. ACRE consists of 43 representatives involved in rural development who are committed to working with rural interest groups, producer associations, the co-operative sector, agribusiness, government, universities and other relevant stakeholder groups to identify opportunities for government action to strengthen the rural economy.

As ACRE analyzed the economy of rural Saskatchewan the Committee was faced with negative perceptions, but concluded that rural Saskatchewan is not a lost cause, and that there is still a chance to reverse the fortunes of rural Saskatchewan.

ACRE's Final Report was released in April 2002. It includes recommendations to the province, a background describing the ACRE process, and a summary of information relating to the state of the rural economy. This document contains recommendations that are supplementary to the Final Report.

At the time of the release of the Final Report, three of ACRE's subcommittees had not yet submitted completed reports. These three subcommittees (Transportation, Grains and Oilseeds, and Labour) were set up in the latter stages of ACRE's work. As ACRE's initial eight subcommittees examined the rural economy, ACRE felt that these particular issues needed further analysis than could be provided through its existing structure. The Transportation and Grains and Oilseeds subcommittees have now completed their work and presented their reports to ACRE during meetings on December 3 and 4, 2002.

Also during its December 2002 meetings, ACRE had an opportunity to review and approve further recommendations that had been developed by the original eight subcommittees but not yet formally approved by ACRE as a whole.

ACRE members and rural residents believe that the revitalization of rural Saskatchewan and ACRE's findings are too important to be ignored.

While the April 2002 report released by ACRE was titled "Final Report", the work of ACRE is in no way complete. The mandate of ACRE has been extended and revised to provide ACRE the ability to hold the provincial government accountable in implementing the recommendations that ACRE has presented in this document, and the recommendations put forward earlier in the Final Report.

As well, ACRE has formed five new subcommittees which will be further examining the rural economy.

## Supplementary Recommendations

Recommendations that have been developed and approved by ACRE since the release of the Final Report are presented in this document. They have been divided into the same six theme areas that were used in ACRE's Final Report: Competitiveness; Skills Development; Infrastructure; Sector Specific; Facilitating Change; and Research and Development.

*Each recommendation is identified by subcommittee as follows:*

A = Agriculture  
AV = Agri-Value  
CIE = Community in Evolution  
ED = Tools for Economic Development  
FIFS = Farm Income and Farm Structure  
GO = Grains and Oilseeds  
L = Land  
R = Resource  
RMC = Rural Manufacturing  
and Construction  
RS = Rural Service  
T = Transportation

The subcommittee reports contain extensive information, and will provide a general background as well as information related to specific recommendations.

### 1. Competitiveness

As noted in ACRE's Final Report, Saskatchewan is part of the global economy and therefore must offer a competitive business climate if it wishes to establish, grow and retain local businesses as well as attract businesses from out-of-province.

*Agricultural Recommendations:*

- The Government should work with private sector partners to develop increased meat processing in the province. These efforts would include

assessing impediments that restrict meat plants from gaining an inspection status that would enhance market access opportunities (currently only federally inspected plants can ship out of province). (A)

- With a finite amount of taxpayer dollars, the importance of a properly functioning, affordable and effective support structure is critical. Governments must more efficiently target and cap programs and payments and assist producers in transition to production systems that are much less reliant on government support. Farm support priorities must focus on helping producers adjust their operations and management skills so they can move effectively into long-term, sustainable sectors. Governments must be prepared to maintain strong social institutions, an effective regulatory system, labour legislation, and a just taxation system, to balance the increasing concentration of corporate power in today's global economy. (FIFS)
- Adequate short-term assistance is still required for stabilization and disaster programming during the transition period. In order to make the most effective use of transition funding government must adjust current programs to better target need including improved disaster protection. The provincial Farm Support Review Committee and the National Safety Net Review process must be directed to find meaningful changes to the package of farm support programs (crop insurance, the Net Income Stabilization Account [NISA] program, and the Canadian Farm Income Program [CFIP]) including improving existing programs, the possible elimination of programs or portions of programs, and the introduction of new programs. It is essential that governments and the

general public recognize that producers are not seeking income assurance but rather, adequate protection against disasters. (FIFS)

- Any government support programs, long or short-term, must be designed to be accessible to all producers, including First Nations farmers. (FIFS)
- A mandatory producer levy should be considered. The funds raised should not be commodity specific and a producer driven process should be developed and implemented that identifies emerging sectors or market opportunities. This should be considered for existing and new crops for both food and non food uses, and should result in public partnership of intellectual partnership. (GO)
- The provincial government develop and implement a strategy that identifies high value crop opportunities, effective and competitive production technologies for new and existing crops and the appropriate skills and knowledge required for success. (GO)
- The development of any environmental farm plans be developed in consultation with Saskatchewan producers and producer groups, and programs reflect the conditions and environmental priorities of Saskatchewan. (GO)
- The provincial government pressure the federal government to develop and implement a strategy, including compensation, to mitigate the impact of trade distorting subsidies on the profitability of the grains and oilseeds sector and related industries. (GO)
- That in cases of grain dealer/processor bankruptcy the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of producers receiving

payment for product delivered and therefore urge the Canadian Grain Commission to pursue options that provide protection to producers. (GO)

- The provincial government encourage the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to continue to have a free and open discussion with producers and industry to facilitate the development of the tools and policies necessary for a profitable value added sector for both producers and industry. (GO)
- The provincial government acknowledge the concerns that some wheat customers have expressed in relation to foods and food ingredients that are the result of modern biotechnology and that a market focus is critical to the success of farmers. (GO)
- The provincial government not support the introduction of genetically modified (GM) wheat until market acceptance issues are addressed and technologies capable of identifying and segregating grains are in place. (GO)
- The provincial government lead an effort that results in producer groups, industry and other provincial governments coming together in a common effort to impress upon the federal government their responsibility for trade injury compensation. (GO)
- The provincial government pressure the federal government to negotiate a World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement that requires penalties for parties involved in trade harassment policies and practices. (GO)

- The Government of Saskatchewan use its influence with the federal government to ensure that the Canadian Grain Commission review panel report and recommendations are made public in a timely fashion. (GO)

#### Tourism Recommendations:

- One of the problems identified for the development of farm-based tourism is high insurance premiums. A useful move would be to pull the insurance industry together and give them an opportunity to respond, and failing satisfactory results, examine alternative ways of group insurance. (A)
- Specific opportunities in agri-tourism, eco-tourism and aboriginal tourism must be identified and qualified. Potential private sector and public sector partners, and First Nations and Metis should be involved. (RS)

#### Investment Recommendations:

- Saskatchewan Agriculture Food and Rural Revitalization develop and lead an Agri-business Investment Strategy. This strategy would identify an investment team that actively co-ordinates and pursues attracting entrepreneurs, agri-business, partners and capital into targeted sectors. (AV)
- Given that the opportunities in this province far out weigh the capacity of our internal capital resources, the attraction of outside investment will assist in stimulating growth and economic development within the agriculture sector. In an effort to put our industry on a more level playing field with neighbouring provinces when it comes to attracting outside investment

into the industry, the province should consider changes to the Farm Ownership Provisions under the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act. (FIFS)

- The provincial government should remove the residency requirements under the Farm Land Security Act for all individuals who are Canadian citizens. (FIFS)
- The provincial government should examine lifting the ownership restrictions under the Farm Land Security Act. This would be for specific development corridors or value-adding agricultural industries that are known to have significant local economic impact and are currently generally approved under the existing exemption provisions (horticulture, livestock, etc.). The objective is to encourage outside investment in Saskatchewan into areas that will stimulate growth within the province. (FIFS)
- That the Government of Saskatchewan form a Task Force to study the feasibility of establishing a foundation similar to Ontario's Trillium Foundation that would support rural community economic development initiatives. (ED)
- That the Government of Saskatchewan dedicate a pool of financial resources to create a venture capital fund that can be accessed by professional financial management firms to leverage private capital. (ED)

#### Information Recommendations:

- Saskatchewan must establish and maintain a complete, accurate and current ecological and geological information database (including water) and increase its availability to industry. This would assist Saskatchewan business to compete with other jurisdictions for limited exploration and development dollars. (R)

- That the economic development and/or delivery opportunities presented by Community Net be taken into consideration in determining the most efficient provision of health care services in rural and remote Saskatchewan. (ED)
- That the economic development and/or delivery opportunities presented by Community Net be taken into consideration in determining the most effective provision of educational services in rural and remote Saskatchewan. (ED)
- Develop a fully integrated, comprehensive, multi-discipline single source database of information available to municipalities, economic development organizations, businesses, professionals and others including detailed information on soil, water supply, transportation infrastructure, incentives, local government structure, land ownership and taxation. (RS)

#### Business Service Recommendations:

- That the provincial government approval processes for zoning, planning and development, water and sewage, and other approvals be reviewed and streamlined to be more time efficient and to meet the needs of proponents. It is recognized that this could ultimately require further resources. (RS)
- Better integration of agriculture, economics and rural development programs and services should be pursued with municipalities, REDAs, Community Futures projects, and provincial departments to eliminate duplication, create efficiencies, linkages and synergies and create one-stop shopping. (RS)

#### Health Care Services Recommendations:

- The first priority must be an effective primary health care strategy and system that is proactive, understood, and supported by funding. Only when this is in place can an effective governance model be developed with clear definitions and understandings of roles, authority, accountability and autonomy. (RS)
- Health and Emergency Services:  
Factors that need to be considered:
  - Industry development;
  - Business growth and expansion;
  - Commuting population-traffic volumes and transportation of dangerous goods;
  - Location of closest primary and acute facilities, health centres, and ambulatory services; and,
  - Changing demographics. (CIE)
- The Saskatchewan Government will stop the erosion of services and ensure essential health and emergency services are available in rural communities to sustain and enable development. People need to know what health services they are assured of receiving within their rural communities. (CIE)
- That the Saskatchewan Government will provide funding to:
  - Match municipal contributions for emergency and fire protection equipment, telecommunications systems and Global Positioning Services (GPS);
  - Ensure comprehensive 911 linkage to good, co-ordinated, dispatch services with GPS for fire protection and emergency response; and,
  - Provide funding for adequate training for firemen, first responders, and other rescue personnel for rural communities. (CIE)

## 2. Skills Development

Building a competitive environment will also depend on the development of a skilled labour force within the province of Saskatchewan. In the long term, the province's long-term economic growth depends on our youth.

### Agriculture and Agri-Value Recommendations:

- The provincial government develop a recognized program that provides people with the opportunity to build their entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills in the agri-value sector. (AV)
- The Saskatchewan Government utilize existing resources to establish a venture management initiative that would match experienced managers with new or expanding agri-business. (AV)
- Enhance agriculture in school curriculum and acknowledge its importance to Saskatchewan and Canada. (RS)

### Skilled Labour and Entrepreneurs Recommendations:

- The Province of Saskatchewan develop a labour strategy to meet the resource sector's ongoing labour needs. This strategy needs to recruit youth and aboriginal people and provide them with the necessary skills so that they can live and work in rural Saskatchewan. (R)
- The Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan work together to implement a province-wide mentorship program. For example an experienced project manager would be assigned to a project in a community to work with the volunteers to initiate

the planning process, provide direction and navigate a project through the regulations of government and financial institutions. (ED)

- Encourage professionals and tradespersons to live and work in rural Saskatchewan by:
  - Supporting and promoting the concept of local municipalities and professional/trade organizations financing the education of tradespersons and professionals, with a requirement for service in rural Saskatchewan; and,
  - Recognizing the need for isolation and remoteness incentives to attract professionals to rural areas. (RS)
- Entrepreneurial training is needed for arts and culture. Research on opportunities and business models needs to be made available. (RS)
- Performing and visual arts events, often located in larger urban centres, provide rural communities with opportunities for community-based entertainment, culture, and an enhanced quality of life. Public arts policy must assist rural areas to develop these opportunities at a local level. (RS)

### Youth Education Recommendations:

- That entrepreneurial training be developed and included in our K-12 school system. (RS)
- Saskatchewan's post secondary educational institutions should give increased priority to practices that contribute to retaining young people in Saskatchewan, especially rural Saskatchewan by:
  - Being more aggressive in recruiting and retaining our high school graduates through scholarships and other incentives; and,



- Allocating seats in various professions and disciplines giving priority to students who will commit to future service in rural Saskatchewan. (RS)
- The people of Saskatchewan will:
  - Develop a vision of public education that promotes a broad liberal education at the secondary level; and,
  - Ensure post-secondary institutions have a vision of specialized education. (CIE)
- The people of Saskatchewan will:
  - Adopt the philosophical structure of community schools in rural education systems as outlined by Saskatchewan Learning. As a hub for a network of community organizations, community schools can foster the development and well being of the entire community. Increased utilization of schools at the community level is needed. (CIE)
- Post-secondary institutions will:
  - Change post-secondary requirements (real and assumed) to reflect the vision of public education (e.g. calculus, seven sciences). There is currently not adequate time to take a range of classes in the secondary system if post-secondary education entrance requirements and expectations are met. (CIE)

Immigration Recommendations:

- The Government of Saskatchewan promote immigration of families and extended families and that the obstacles for professions such as teachers and nurses be eliminated, and that farmers and agriculture workers be considered as a priority and that potential partnerships be developed with First Nations for the utilizations of labour and Treaty Lands as well as provincial farm lands. (ED)

### 3. Infrastructure

Saskatchewan requires a competitive and efficient infrastructure that will include linking Saskatchewan with emerging distribution hubs and linking our major centres.

Irrigation Recommendations:

- Processing of horticultural crops could be encouraged to enhance the viability of irrigation production. (A)

Transportation Recommendations:

- The province change its policy on how it charges for permits that allow users to run primary weights on secondary weight highways. The fees for the Transportation Partnership Program (TPP) should be changed so that businesses wishing to run trucks at primary weights over secondary weight highways are charged a fee, which reflects the costs of the incremental damage caused to the secondary weight highways by using primary weights. The fee would apply for every km that a truck runs on a secondary weight highway at primary weights. The shipper would no longer be required to share the benefits associated with fewer trips with the Department of Highways and Transportation. The fees should be administered fairly and equitably across all industries and all road users. (T)
- The province amend legislation which would allow municipalities the ability to assess special fees on industries which create extra road costs above and beyond the normal road traffic loads. The extra fees should be administered fairly and equitably across all industries and all road users. (T)

- The province, in consultation with stakeholders, establish an integrated transportation corridor system. The corridor system should be developed using various information available such as grain, tourist, and trucking routes and using the Rural Road Classification System. The main corridors, road linkages, and feeder roads should all be identified. It should also be recognized that construction and maintenance funding should be allocated proportionately. (T)
- The province develop transportation infrastructure investment strategies that maximize rates of return to the economy. The investment strategies also must recognize the role of rural areas in generating GDP. The investment strategies must be developed for both the long-term and the short-term. (T)
- Policies, practices and procedures be developed that require provincial government departments to work together in a more integrated, collaborative and complementary manner to ensure integrated development of the transportation system. When appropriate, this must be done inter-jurisdictionally to ensure the integrated development of the transportation system. (T)
- The Department of Highways and Transportation develop a policy to accommodate changing weight requirements and road capabilities. Authority to approve weight designation changes should rest with the Minister of Highways and Transportation.
- The province provide adequate resources to assess the load bearing capacities, width capacities and condition of all municipal and provincial bridges. (T)
- All levels of government and industry establish a process for providing information to the road authorities on impending and future economic development projects. (T)
- The Department of Highways and Transportation should significantly increase the use of their authority to audit weigh bill tickets. Depending on the circumstance, an overweight charge should be laid on the basis of an audit or the audit could be used in conjunction with other enforcement measures. (T)
- Regulations and policies need to be put in place to ensure efficient and adequate random auditing can be done. To ensure fairness and equity, all industries involved in moving goods by truck would be subject to random weight audits. (T)
- The Department of Highways and Transportation and Area Transportation Planning Committees educate the public regarding our highway system, its construction and what weights it is capable of handling. This should include things like damage costs caused by overweight vehicles and by the speed of vehicles. (T)
- There be no further increase in the primary weights, regardless of what other provinces do, until the primary weight transportation system in the province is at a long-term standard capable of handling increased weights. An exception to this would be where 100 per cent federal funding is made available to address national and international harmonization issues. (T)
- The province change the existing legislation to permit rural municipalities to designate routes for weights, dangerous goods and dimension (over-sized) loads. (T)

- The province commit to work collaboratively and co-operatively with appropriate stakeholders to plan, develop and implement a sustainable integrated rural air access strategy. (T)
- That the Government of Saskatchewan continue to treat all future short lines as commercial ventures. (T)
- The Federal Government fund the construction and maintenance of the national highway system in Canada. (T)
- It is recommended that any permits, fines for overweight vehicles or other charges directly related to road costs, collected by the Department of Highways and Transportation should remain with the Department of Highways and Transportation rather than being allocated to the General Revenue Fund for the Province. (T)
- The province conduct an independent review of existing Department of Highways and Transportation contracts used for construction, maintenance and engineering contracting to the private sector to ensure the department is receiving value for money. (T)
- The province direct the Crown utilities to work with road authorities to achieve an efficient transportation and utility distribution system that is cost effective and workable for all parties. Prior to construction/reconstruction of linear utilities the consultation process must also include adjacent landowners. (T)
- A special trailer could be designed that would allow a heavier container to be transported on Saskatchewan's secondary weight roads, therefore, the province and industry should work together to develop a trucking method and axle system to accommodate the use of containers to their maximum capacity. (T)
- The province, industry and educational institutions promote the opportunities, careers and training that are available in the transportation sector. (T)
- The trucking industry continue with an increase in their presence at high schools and public forums in promoting interest in and respect for the trucking industry and related job opportunities. (T)
- The province update the digital map on the location of airports, airstrips and their classifications in Saskatchewan. (T)
- The province continue the Short line Advisory Unity in the Department of Highways and Transportation and continue to develop, in consultation with existing short lines and local stakeholders, regulations under The Saskatchewan Railway Act. (T)
- The Department of Highways and Transportation, the Area Transportation Planning Committees (ATPCs) and the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA) work together to promote truck safety and to increase the public's awareness and perception of large trucks. (T)
- The province, in conjunction with the municipalities, conduct a detailed review to determine the potential current and future uses for railway rights-of-way and develop a plan to preserve them where necessary. The province should also develop legislation to fairly deal with the removal of a rail line. (T)
- That the Government of Saskatchewan provide funding to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) to provide basic public passenger and freight transportation services to rural Saskatchewan where use warrants. (RS)

- In an effort to be more proactive, all jurisdictions responsible for roads and transportation must do a better job of educating the public on the load capacity of roads and highways, the importance of weight compliance and safety issues. (RS)
- Highway signage is very important to rural communities and businesses. Directional signage for communities must be effective and up-to-date. Provision of signage within the highway right-of-way for specific businesses and community services should be available on a cost-recovery or cost-shared basis. (RS)
- The Department of Highways must have a three-year capital works program to be more timely and cost-effective and to allow multi-year funding commitments. (RS)

#### Education Recommendations:

- Given the continuation of declining enrolments and school closures, policies and programs for renovations of facilities must be given at least the same priority as construction of new facilities. (RS)

#### Housing Recommendations:

- That the Government of Saskatchewan develop an Internet based central cataloguing system of available SaskHousing units for rent or purchase in rural Saskatchewan. (ED)

#### Utilities Recommendations:

- A program should be established to assist small communities with the energy costs of operating cultural and recreational facilities and to encourage energy efficiency in operating local facilities. (RS)

- Endorsement of SaskPower's Green Power Program and the pursuit of wind-power, co-generation and other electricity generation alternatives, many of which appear to be feasible in rural Saskatchewan. (RS)

#### Water Recommendations:

- Government needs to play a strong advisory, advocacy, co-ordination and regulatory role to ensure the protection of vital water resources for present and future generations. (RS)
- Education on water quality management and monitoring is needed for rural residents and municipal technicians. (RS)
- The role and financial support of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) in farm rural water development, which has diminished in recent years, should be restored to previous levels. (RS)

#### Municipal Services Recommendations:

- A local approach and co-operation among municipalities should be encouraged for firefighting services. Incentives should promote co-operation among municipalities. (RS)
- There is a need to create awareness of what citizens can do to supplement police services through programs such as: Rural Crime Watch, Crime Stoppers, and Citizens on Patrol. (RS)
- Training for firefighting must include rural conditions (RS)

#### Information Recommendations:

- ACRE strongly reiterates the January 2001 recommendation for extension of high-speed Internet and cellular telephone services throughout Saskatchewan. (RS)

## 4. Sector Specific

Opportunities in specific sectors in rural Saskatchewan that will add to the growth of the provincial GDP must be addressed.

### Specialized Livestock Recommendations:

- The processing of meat from specialized livestock, particularly bison and elk is stumbling because of a lack of aggressive marketing and adequate local processing. Such a Saskatchewan plant would be desirable. (A)

### Resource Recommendations:

- Generally, there is a lack of knowledge in Saskatchewan about the resource sector and its contribution to the rural economy. The committee recommends that the benefits of the resource sector, particularly in terms of employment, be built into the larger communications strategy to encourage rural Saskatchewan to welcome the economic opportunities and employment associated with resource development. (R)
- There are opportunities to use the province's hardwood resource (poplar) for purposes including, but not limited to oriented strand board. The committee recommends that the province create an awareness of the opportunities for utilizing the province's hardwood resource so that private investment and related employment can occur. (R)

### Agriculture Recommendations:

- Specific opportunities that should be investigated are listed in the Grains and Oilseeds Subcommittee report. (GO)

## 5. Facilitating Change

Individuals and sectors will be challenged to prepare for change.

### Agriculture Recommendations:

- Intergenerational transfer of farms contains a number of additional considerations beyond those for new entrants. For example, retiring parents need to have timely access to sufficient capital to retire and need to be confident that the risk of future financial difficulty of the farm will not jeopardize their retirement. Programming needs to be developed to address the specific issues of those exiting the industry. (A)
- It is recommended that the Saskatchewan Government examine mechanisms to form or expand existing community pastures or co-operatives through public, private, and corporate partnerships. (R)

### First Nations Recommendations:

- First Nations control a large land resource that is an integral part of rural Saskatchewan. The committee recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the federal government, work with First Nations to facilitate development of First Nation resources. (R)

### Resource Recommendations:

- The committee recommends the province encourage training of rural residents, including First Nations, to participate in opportunities related to the forestry sector. (R)

### Employment Recommendations:

- SaskEnergy's approach to link rural offices by electronic communications technology and move work to offices with capacity is a model to be considered by provincial government departments, crown corporations and agencies to maintain a presence in rural Saskatchewan, avoid office closures and provide employment. (RS)

## **6. Research and Development**

As a basis for the birth of new activity in the province, the government must invest in publicly accessible applied research and development.

### Agriculture Recommendations:

- Government should consider the establishment of a feed processing facility that can research and demonstrate the processing, combining of constituents, and evaluate all manner of feedstocks for livestock. (A)
- Publicly funded agriculture development programs and services need to be maintained and enhanced to further the growth of Saskatchewan agriculture at the primary production and value-added levels. (RS)
- The federal and provincial governments implement strategies that improve the balance between public and private plant breeding efforts where the public supported breeding meets specific gaps or needs of Saskatchewan producers and results in public ownership of intellectual property. (GO)
- Research related to crop varieties should be focused on variety development that results in specific, profitable market opportunities for producers. (GO)

- That Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization support research into alternatives to strychnine for ground squirrel and pocket gopher control. (GO)
- The provincial government provides adequate resources for research into new crops and value added opportunities for existing grains and oilseeds. (GO)
- Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food Rural Revitalization should recognize marketing as an important component of new crop development and value added initiatives and that marketing be incorporated into the mandate of the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF). (GO)

### Resource Recommendations:

- The industry has developed a niche of expertise in the development of marginal reserves and the province must continue to support relevant oil and gas research and development, through facilities such as the Petroleum Technology Research Centre. (R)
- The provincial government should support the Forest Centre of Excellence which deals with value-added research and the identification of market opportunities. (R)
- Incentives to promote exploration and development of natural gas in Saskatchewan should be considered. (RS)

# APPENDIX 1

## ACRE Representatives

### ACRE CO-CHAIRS

**Audrey Horkoff**, Past President  
Canadian Western Agribition  
**Kamsack**

**Honourable Clay Serby**, Deputy Premier  
and Minister,  
Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food, and Rural  
Revitalization

### ACRE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### **Agriculture**

**Red Williams**, President  
Saskatchewan AgriVision Corporation  
**Saskatoon**

#### **Agri-Value**

**Brad Wildeman**, President  
Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd.  
**Lanigan**

#### **Resources**

**Phil Reeves**, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Mining Association  
**Regina**

#### **Rural Manufacturing and Construction**

**Loren Katzenberger**, 3rd Vice Chair  
Prairie Implement Manufacturers  
Association  
**Saskatoon**

#### **Rural Service**

**Dick DeRyk**, Past Chairman  
Tourism Saskatchewan  
**Yorkton**

#### **Farm Income and Farm Structure**

**Marsha Cannon** (until December 2002),  
President,  
Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association  
**Rush Lake**

#### **Community in Evolution**

**Linda Pipke**, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Council for Community  
Development  
**Davidson**

#### **Tools for Economic Development**

**Joan Corneil**, (until September 2002,  
General Manager, REDA Great River Lakes,  
Outlook)  
Director, Economic Development  
City of North Battleford  
**North Battleford**

#### **Transportation**

**David Sloan**, Chair  
Saskatchewan Area Transportation Planning  
Committees Chairman's Committee  
**Richardson**

#### **Grains and Oilseeds**

**Keith Lewis**, Director  
Western Canadian Wheat Growers  
Association  
**Wawota**

#### **Youth**

**Danea Armstrong**, Manager, Investment  
Attraction, SREDA (Saskatoon Regional  
Economic Development Authority Inc.)  
**Saskatoon**

## ACRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Darryl Amey**, Chair  
Saskatchewan Organic Directorate  
**Radisson**

**Miles Anderson**, Past President  
Saskatchewan Livestock Association  
**Fir Mountain**

**Wayne Bacon**, President  
Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association  
**Kinistino**

**Dennis Banda**, President  
Federated Co-op Ltd.  
**Saskatoon**

**Dr. Ernie Barber**, Dean  
College of Agriculture, U of S  
**Saskatoon**

**Ray Bashutsky**, President  
Saskatchewan Rally Group  
**Wynyard**

**Joan Chase**, Board Director  
Saskatchewan Food Centre  
**Meota**

**Germain Dauk**, Vice-Chair  
Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association  
**Naicam**

**Deborah Ehmann**, Producer  
**Dundurn**

**Ray Frehlick**, Saskatchewan Chairman  
Petroleum Services Association of Canada  
**Estevan**

**Wendy Smith**  
formerly with Carlton Trail REDA  
**St. Brieux**

**Martin Gareau**, President  
Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association  
**Prince Albert**

**Dr. Nikki Gerrard**, Co-ordinator  
Rural Quality of Life Program  
Saskatoon District Health  
**Saskatoon**

**Doug Griller**, President  
Saskatchewan Bison Association  
**Quill Lake**

**Bert Harman**, CEO  
Star Eggs  
**Saskatoon**

**Elwood Harvey**, President  
Credit Union Central  
**Regina**

**Sinclair Harrison**, President  
Saskatchewan Association of Rural  
Municipalities

**Moosomin**  
replaced in March 2002 by  
Neil Hardy, President  
Saskatchewan Association of Rural  
Municipalities  
**Hudson Bay**

**Lorne Johnson**  
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities  
Association  
**Eston**

**Gene Kessler**, Chairman  
Family Farm Foundation of Canada  
**Pangman**

**Lester Lafond**, Agricultural Consultant  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
**Saskatoon**

**Les Lindberg**, Chair  
Saskatchewan Agriculture Subcommittee  
Canadian Bankers Association  
**Regina**

**Kim Lock**, Youth Representative  
Saskatchewan 4H Council  
**Macklin**

**Raquel Moleski**  
Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural  
Network

**Dysart**

**Evan Ortynsky**  
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce  
**Yorkton**



## **ACRE Committee Members Continued**

**Darell Pack**, federal ex-officio,  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
**Winnipeg**

**Florian Possberg**, CEO  
Big Sky Farms  
**Humboldt**

**Denise Smith**  
Saskatchewan Elk Breeders Association  
**Delisle**

**Thad Trefiak**, Vice-President  
Saskatchewan Wheat Pool  
**Regina**

**Hugh Wagner**  
Grain Services Union  
**Regina**

**Grace Whittington**  
Riverbend Plantation  
**Saskatoon**

**Brian Weedon**, President  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
**Swift Current**

**Stewart Wells**, President  
National Farmers Union  
**Swift Current**

**Jerry Wurz**, Producer  
Eagle Creek Colony  
**Asquith**

## **Non-ACRE Members who participated at the subcommittee level**

**Gary Atimoyoo**, Director of Special Projects  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indians  
**Saskatoon**

**John Beckton**, Beckton Agricultural  
Finance & Management Consulting Service  
**Saskatoon**

**Ralph Eliasson**, Director of Education  
Saskatchewan Central School Division #121  
**Watrous**

**Harry Lafond**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
**Saskatoon**

**Guy Lonechild**, Second Vice-Chief  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
**White Bear First Nation**

**Bob Merasty**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
**Saskatoon**

**John Serhienko**, Chair  
Agriculture in the Classroom  
**Blaine Lake**

**Marion Zerr**, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Council of Senior Federal  
Officials  
**Regina**

## Appendix 2

### Further Information

Background information about the Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE), the recommendations contained in this report, and ACRE's previous recommendations, can be found in previously released documents:

Community Success Stories  
February 2002

Final Report of ACRE  
March 2002

Supplement to the Final Report of ACRE  
March 2002

Grains and Oilseeds Working Group Report  
July, 2002

Transportation Subcommittee Final Report  
November 2002

**ACRE documents are available on-line at:**  
<http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/acre>

**Documents can also be requested from**  
Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural  
Revitalization's Rural Issues Office:  
Room 101  
3085 Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B1  
Phone: 306-787-4484  
Fax: 306-798-0629  
E-mail: [ACRE@agr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:ACRE@agr.gov.sk.ca)

